

## Heroes – Joseph

### Psalm 75:6

6 For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God. TLB

- All promotion and authority come from God
- If we don't take the steps to prepare we will not achieve the fullness of the plan he has for our lives

Principals in God's word dictate Godly character  
These principals show me flaws I must deal with  
Godly character determines what I can manage

### 2 Peter 1:5-9

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. NKJV

- Great destinies carry great responsibilities  
– responsibilities that require strong character
- God will give us a glimpse of what He wants our life to look like
- There is a process to build our character on the way to where we're going

## The story of Joseph

### Genesis 37:5

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. NKJV

- Dream Big with God!
- Be careful who you share your dreams with
- You don't need to make things happen
- His brothers already hated him
- Humility can keep quite
- Pursue God and allow Him to promote you
- Let the plan of God develop and unfold

Joseph dreamed that everyone would bow to him including his brothers and father

Even though it was God's plan for him the time to share it was wrong

This did not go over well

You do not have to tell everyone what God shows you

What He reveals in secret, He will make known

God needed to build character for Joseph to receive the promotions that would take him to his destiny

Joseph was 17 at the time

He was put over the granaries and all of Egypt when he was 30

7 years of abundance 7 years of famine before he was reunited with his family – at least 44 years old

There is a Prophetic word – Tests your faith

There is a literal word – Tests your Character

## Pride

Isaiah 14:13-15

13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. NKJV

- It all starts with what we say to ourselves
- I will prevail! – No matter what!
- With or without God?
- Many times we stop hearing God as we pursue our dreams

The root of Pride – Insecurity

The fruit of insecurity is pride

Insecurity is rooted in fear – fear that people won't value us the way that we are or for whom we are – always looking for something new to validate us

We feel a need to tell everyone or prove to everyone how great we are

Jesus did not need to validate himself when the Devil threatened him with who he was

He simply said – It is written! – Matthew 4:10

Pride is concerned and consumed with how things look

Humility is concerned with the will of God

### Mark 8:31-33

31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." NKJV

### 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

17 But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD." 18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends. NKJV

- Glory in God not self
- My commendation and approval come from God
- Knowing Him – understanding His will
- Allowing Him to accomplish it through me
- Content with son ship

### Ephesians 1:5 NKJV

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

### John 15:5

5 Apart from me you can do nothing. NIV

- Our identity is in our relationship with Him
- It's not what we do
- It's not who notices us
- Its not how important we are

We are God's Children  
We don't need to tell anyone what we've done or who we are  
He is our security  
If God uses us to speak to people that's great  
If he uses someone else that's fine too  
Our greatest joy is not what we've done for Him but what He's done for us and is doing in us and through us

The key is abiding in Him

2 Timothy 1:8-12 NKJV – Paul a prisoner

8 Therefore **do not be ashamed** of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the **sufferings for the gospel** according to the power of God, 9 who has **saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose** and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 For this reason I also suffer these things; **nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.**

- Paul was seeking God first
- He was not seeking the dream
- He was not seeking a position
- He was seeking God

It is better to long for the one who gives the dream  
If you want to know what God has dreamed for your life,  
get to know Him better  
Get to know Him as a friend

The only way we can know if the dream is ours or his is by  
spending time with Him  
If all you think about is your dream or your calling then it's  
more important than He is – you will not fulfill it!

### Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on  
your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge  
Him, and He shall direct your paths. NKJV

### The Pit

Just when I had other plans “Life” happened  
Things could seem to be going well and all of a sudden...  
Having a pit experience or several is inevitable the  
principle is how well I directed my attitude while in the pit

### 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our  
outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being  
renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is  
but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding  
and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the  
things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.  
For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things  
which are not seen are eternal. NKJV

### Genesis 37:18-20

18 Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. 19 Then they said to one another, "Look, **this dreamer is coming**! 20 Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" NKJV

- There will always be someone who doesn't want to see your dream come to pass
- You can't do that
- Who do you think you are?
- He was father's favorite
- They probably recognized the coat
- They called him dreamer
- They were working in the fields
- Do I live with my head in the clouds?
- Do I believe that I am better than others?
- Do I think that the problem is everyone else?

### Genesis 37:21-24

21 But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." 22 And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him" — that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father. 23 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.

24 Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. NKJV

- In the pit you are all alone
- Even those closest can't seem to help
- Your destiny is unsure
- Does God really have the best for me?

There are several reasons we may find ourselves in the pit  
some pits are just a part of life

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." NKJV

- Trouble is a result of a fallen world
- Some times things just happen
- Some times we invite them
- No matter what the reason it is always a good practice to ask God to reveal what we can learn from the pit we are in
- Like it or not most times we have had some reasons that we are facing the pit we are in
- We are surrounded by a world with a victim mentality
- We need to learn to be honest with ourselves and allow God to bring us out – minister while we're there
- It is very possible that pride had something to do with the pit that Joseph was in
- God has given us wonderful gifts but if those gifts consume us we may find ourselves in a pit
- We can never forget our lives are about others