

## Heroes – Joseph – 6 – Perseverance

### Genesis 37:5

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

There is a Prophetic word – Tests your faith  
There is a literal word – Tests your Character

The Principle of Pride

- The root of Pride – Insecurity

The Principle of the Pit

The Principle of Good Stewardship

The Principal of Purity (Holiness)

### Genesis 39:11-15, 19, 20

11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. 13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, 14 that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. 15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside." 19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.

20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. NKJV

- This Sucks!
- God will get the Glory!

Let's be clear that obedience to God's word is vital to walking in the blessings of God  
Obedience to God is no guarantee that challenging things will never happen to us.

## 2 Peter 1:5-7

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. NKJV

- If we never develop character we won't know God deeply
- If we don't know God deeply we will not hear His voice clearly
- If we don't know His voice we will not practice ***patience – Accept or tolerate***
- Without patience we will not live surrendered lives
- If we don't live a surrendered life we will not ***persevere – steadfastness, achieve success***

We know that obedience reaps a reward however we see the example of Joseph walking in obedience to the Lord yet the blessing seems to elude Him.

Potiphar's Wife makes a sexual advance on him yet he is punished for something he didn't do.  
He is thrown into prison.

### 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

- You will have trials and sorrow
- Take heart – I have overcome

### Matthew 7:24-27

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." NKJV

- The trials come to the just as well as the unjust
- Do not be hearers only
  - James 1:22 Deceiving yourselves
- One fell, one stood

We should note that even though the prison was not a great place to be, the penalty for rape in Joseph's day was death. We will face tribulation and bad times but we still have God's favor.

### Romans 5:3-5

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. NKJV

- Rejoice(NLT) – to wish or desire
- “Good for us” – NLT (1<sup>st</sup> Pub)
- Trials produce Perseverance (endurance)
- Endurance produces character
- Character produces Hope
- Hope is grounded in the LOVE of Father

According to the Bible the only way to get perseverance is thorough tribulation

The only way to persevere is to persevere

I know this is what we all want to hear

I wish I could tell you to do one thing and magically all of your dreams and desires will come to pass

That is not the truth

Hope is something that is produced as a result of trials

### Philippians 3:10

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. NKJV

- There can not be a resurrection without a death
- Trials cause us to die to self – we can only trust Him
- A grain of wheat must die – John 12:24-26

### James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. NKJV

- We must learn to allow the “testing of our faith”
- It is the only way for spiritual growth
- Patience – Waiting with contentment

Patience and perseverance teaches us to trust God

### Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say:

"The LORD is my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?" NKJV

While we are waiting with contentment we will need to fight the fight of faith

Patience and perseverance is not the same thing

We need both

The only way to get perseverance is to wait patiently for a long period of time – with the right attitude

Sometimes weeks turn into months, turn into years turn into...

Joseph's first trial lasted 13 years at least 2 in prison  
He had to keep believing God's word in the midst of  
feeling like God had forgotten him

David waited 13 years to become king  
Paul waited 13 years for his first missionary journey  
Abraham waited 25 years  
Moses waited 40 years

You can not get character by someone laying hands on you  
and praying  
It's something that must be developed  
You need character to get to where God is taking you

Because there will be spiritual warfare you must endure  
If we don't endure and fight the "good fight of faith" we  
will not be able to withstand the attacks that the enemy has  
in store for us

## 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

- I know in whom I believed – 2 Timothy 1:12

## 1 Timothy 6:11-14

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing. NKJV

- Faith, love, perseverance, gentleness
- Obedience and purity
- Jesus opened not His mouth – Matthew 27:11-14
- This is the life that walks in blessings

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. NKJV

- Live a life that is poured out
- Fight the good fight
- Run the race
- Look for his return
- Win the race – Receive the prize

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of **the power may be of God and not of us**. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh**. NKJV

- God's power is manifested through trials that are greater than we can endure on our own

## 1 Peter 1:3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept **by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. NKJV

- Faith must be tested
- When we are tested we receive revelation
- If we endure



## Hebrews 6:19

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil. NKJV

- Our hope is something near
- It is something that is developed
- Developed as we walk through trials
- We learn the faithfulness of God
- It may not be easy to obtain
- But is worth every trial we overcome
- Its all about His presence
- When we live out of His presence we will...

***Practice Patience – Accept or tolerate***

***Persevere – Steadfastness, achieve success***