

Joseph

“Getting Up from the Bottom to Go to the Top”

Introduction: As a young man, Joseph dreamed of a future that would be great in the sight of God and man. He was gifted with the ability to hear, to recognize, to understand and to obey God’s voice. When he found himself in a dire situation which he was forced into, his response is one from which we can all learn. By any standard other than God’s; Joseph had every reason to be bitter, to give up and to doubt God. Joseph was pushed to the bottom and from his story we see how he got up and climbed to the top:

- When Joseph was at the bottom, he acknowledged that God gave him revelation; **Genesis 40:8** *So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God?”* Joseph was careful to give God all glory while willingly allowing himself to be used in his gifting. Serving God sometimes requires that we rise above a difficult circumstance and do as He would have us do. Joseph was ready in and out of season. ***When in need; Serve someone else.***
- When Joseph came up from the bottom, he acknowledged that God gave him answers; **Genesis 41:16** *So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”* Joseph could not give answers about the future because the answer was not in him. He understood that acknowledging God as being omniscient would release God to give him the answer he sought. ***When seeking answers; Go to God.***
- When Joseph’s life was restored, he acknowledged that God had brought him out of the pit; **Genesis 41:51-52** *...Manasseh “For God has made me forget all my toil and my father’s house.” ...Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”* The Life of Joseph was one of great hardship and great triumph. He chose to move up from hardship and to memorialize God in triumph. ***When things are good; it’s because of God.***

Joseph never gave up on God and God never gave up on him. Even as a young man, Joseph knew who was in charge of his future. He lived a life that honored God by his actions while glorifying God through his gifting. Joseph didn’t allow his countenance to fall when at the bottom and he never allowed his head to swell while at the top. Like Joseph, don’t count yourself out. Let God in. You don’t belong at the bottom. God is your Father. Allow Him to take you to the top.