

# Principles through the Life of Joseph

1.

**Principle:** Opposition to wrong (sin) puts one at odds with the World and especially those who do not want to live a life of righteousness.

## Life of Joseph Verse:

**Genesis 37:2** *These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.*

## Cross References:

**Proverbs 29:27** *An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.*

**Romans 8:7** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

**2 Timothy 3:12** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

**Application:** With the reality that we live in a fallen world we should be prepared for the persecution to follow as we do what is right. It is always right to do right.

2.

**Principle:** God's will, will always be accomplished, however improbable to the circumstances or appearances, and therefore the believer can take heart.

## Life of Joseph Verse:

**Genesis 37:5** *And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.*

**Genesis 42:6, 43:26, 43:28, 47:31** - Fulfillment

## Cross References:

**Ephesians 1:11** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

**Application:** Always trust in the Lord for His will, will always be accomplished, especially in the face of temporal evidences to the contrary.

3.

**Principle:** Even in the midst of doing right, trials and tribulations still will befall us.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 37:18** *And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.*

**Cross References:**

**Matthew 5:45** *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

**1 Peter 4:12** *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

**Matthew 16:24** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

**Application:** Knowing that our right walk doesn't guarantee us a life of ease, or a life free from adversity, though he has not promised that, he has promised he will not leave or forsake us.

4.

**Principle:** When God is with you, you will be prosperous even if it is not according to the world's standards, and likely those around you will be blessed because of your relationship and proximity to them.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:2** *And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

**Cross References:**

**Genesis 30:30** *For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude; and the LORD hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also?*

**2 Samuel 6:11** *And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household.*

**Application:** Live in a way that God is with us regardless of the setting or circumstances. Even those around us will benefit from us living a righteous life.

5.

**Principle:** People will see if God is with us. Our testimony of God's work in our life should be obvious to the unsaved.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:3** *And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

**Genesis 41:38** *And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?*

**Cross References:**

**Zechariah 8:23** *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

**John 3:2** *The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

**Proverbs 16:7** *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

**Application:** Are we living in such a way that the lost can see God is with us? If our walk is right our light should be visible to others. Live in a way that honors God visible so others might be saved.

6.

**Principle:** Temptation often comes through the gates (eye, ear) in the form of lust, which in turn brings forth sin.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:7** *And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.*

**Cross References:**

**Lamentations 3:51** *Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.*

**Mark 9:47** *And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:*

**1 John 2:16** *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

**2 Peter 2:14-15** *Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;*

**James 1:14-15** *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

**Application:** Always guard what is going into the eyes and the ears. Realize both affect the heart.

7.

**Principle:** Positions of authority and the power of God upon our lives potentially draws the wrong kind of attention.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:7** *And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.*

**Cross References:**

**2 Kings 9:30** *And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.*

**2 Corinthians 6:14** *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

**Application:** Guard against the unsaved desiring to be yoked with the save because of prosperity or a "clean" life. The devil will cast his snare to unequally yoke a believer, therefore we are admonished against such things, especially in relationships.

8.

**Principle:** We as believers have two defenses to help us thwart temptation when it comes. One is our love for God and who we are in him, a child of Light. And secondly, understanding the wickedness of sin, it's reality and end result.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 38:8-9** *But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

**Cross References:**

**Psalms 51:4** *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

**Romans 6:12** *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

**Romans 6:16** *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

**Romans 7:13** *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

**2 Corinthians 5:14** *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

9.

**Principle:** Temptation is not vanquished in one sitting but can be overcome with God's help.

**Life of Joseph verse:**

**Genesis 39:10** *And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

**Cross References:**

**Proverbs 1:10** *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

**Luke 4:13** *And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.*

**James 4:7** *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

**Application:** Knowing the adversary will continue to attack repeatedly, I will not consent but seek God for my strength.

10.

**Principle:** Fleeing in the opposite direction is the best practice for ensuring success when fighting temptation. The farther you are from the temptation the safer you become. I.e. Don't pitch your tent facing Sodom, or in Gerar.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:12** *And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.*

**Cross References:**

**James 4:7** *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

**Genesis 19:17** *And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.*

**Psalms 71:2** *Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.*

**Psalms 141:10** *Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape.*

**1Corinthians 10:13** *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

**Application:** My first reaction to temptation will be to flee the opposite direction, if there is any way possible I will not place myself in a situation that I have to flee from to begin with.

11.

**Principle:** Though the world and its system may vex you for doing right, the Lord will always be with His children and see them through.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:20,21** *And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

**Cross References:**

**2 Timothy 4:16,17** *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*

**Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

**Application:** Regardless of how the world treats me I will always do right in the eyes of the Lord, understanding the Lord is with me.

12.

**Principle:** It is only by God's mercy that we do not get what we really deserve, therefore whatever situation I am in is better than where I could be.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:20,21** *And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

**Cross References:**

**Lamentations 3:22** *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

**Malachi 3:6** *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Application:** Be thankful for what the Lord has done for you daily, regardless of how bad you think you have it, understanding you are not getting what you deserve.

13.

**Principle:** With diligence comes blessing and it complements the Lord's grace and mercy in our lives. We show great honor and glory to Him by not being a slothful servant.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:22** *And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.*

**Cross References:**

**Proverbs 12:24** *The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.*

**Proverbs 12:27** *The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.*

**Romans 12:11** *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

**Hebrews 6:12** *That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

**Application:** Whatever the Lord places in my path as my realm of responsibility I will do with all of my might, in that there is great reward.

14.

**Principle:** Anything and everything we do that prospers is because the Lord makes it to prosper, we have nothing to boast of. He has given me everything to begin with.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 39:23** *The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.*

**Cross References:**

**Isaiah 10:15** *Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.*

**John 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

**Acts 17:28** *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

**Application:** Understand that all prosperity comes from God, I have nothing to glory of, therefore will I give God the glory.

15.

**Principle:** God will present opportunities for us to be a blessing to others if we pay attention for those opportunities. We are to be children of Light and desire to be a help and a blessing to those in need. After all we do have the answer they need. In helping, we should give God the credit.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 40:7,8** *And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day? And they said unto him, *We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.**

**Cross References:**

**Daniel 2:28** *But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;*

**Isaiah 46:10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

**Matthew 9:36** *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

**John 4:35** *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

**Romans 12:15** *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

**Application:** Pay attention to the people around you for God placed opportunities to minister. Give God the credit.

16.

**Principle:** There is an appointed time for God's deliverance in our lives, and it may not be on our timetable. This time is set for our best as God knows what is best for us.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 41:1** *And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.*

**Cross References:**

**Habbakuk 2:3** *For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

**Psalms 105:19** *Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.*

**Hebrews 12:1** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

**James 1:4** *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

**Application:** Be patient, understanding God is in control.

17.

**Principle:** Always attest to the greatness of God and His enablement, even in the temptation to take credit for yourself. The audience does not dictate you to change your response. This attests to how much faith Joseph had in God to give him the interpretation.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 41:16** *And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*

**Cross References:**

**1 Corinthians 4:7** *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

**Galatians 1:2** *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

**Application:** How ever God enables you, give God the glory.

18.

**Principle:** God's blessings far outweigh the sufferings for a season. He can bring peace and contentment to our heart, making us forget the adversity that got us there. He can also cause us to be fruitful in desert places.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 41:51,52** *And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.*

**Cross References:**

**Psalms 78:19** *Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?*

**Romans 5:3-5** *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

**2 Corinthians 4:17** *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

**Galatians 6:9** *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

**Application:** I will set my heart on the fact that God's blessing is much greater than the sufferings.

19.

**Principle:** Your sin will find you out. Certainly, guilt will ravage the soul.

**Life of Joseph Verse:**

**Genesis 42:21** *And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.*

**Cross References:**

**Genesis 44:16** *And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found.*

**Numbers 32:23** *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

**Isaiah 59:12** *For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;*

**Application:** It does no good to cover up sin, immediately respond to sin by confessing it before God.

20.

**Principle:** God can turn seemingly bad things into good things through His sovereign will. Therefore, we should look for and expect to see God's hand at work even in the negative things of life.

**Life of Joseph Verse**

**Genesis 50:20** *But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*

**Cross Reference:**

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

**Ephesians 1:11** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

