

God Makes Up for Every Loss

Have you ever felt like life has robbed you of something important? Maybe it was time, opportunities, relationships, or dreams. When we look at Joseph's story in the Bible, we find powerful truths about how God works even when life seems unfair.

Can the Enemy Really Take What's Yours?

"The enemy can't take what I have. Change who I am. I belong to you." These lyrics contain a profound truth. While it may appear that the enemy has stolen things from us—time, years, opportunities—God knows exactly what was taken and is able to restore our lives so thoroughly that the devil will regret ever messing with us.

God's restoration is so complete that:

- You won't miss what was lost
- In one year, you can experience what would take others five years
- Your blessings will far outweigh your losses

The key is not reacting to the deceiver's work as if it's the end of your story. Your story doesn't end with the works of the devil—it ends with the Word of God.

What Can We Learn from Joseph's Journey?

Joseph's life is a perfect example of apparent loss turned to incredible gain. His brothers threw him into a pit, sold him into slavery, and he eventually landed in prison for years. How could anyone make up for those lost years?

Yet Joseph ended up:

- Becoming ruler of Egypt
- Saving nations from famine
- Being honored by those who once despised him
- Experiencing reconciliation with his family

His relationship with his brothers actually turned out better after his enslavement and imprisonment than it would have been otherwise. This wasn't an isolated case—it's what God does for those who trust Him and hold onto His promises.

Did God Cause Joseph's Suffering?

Many believe God put Joseph through suffering to perfect him, but that's not accurate. Joseph's own pride and arrogance contributed to his troubles:

- He bragged about his dreams to brothers who already disliked him
- He tried to exalt himself in their eyes
- He set himself up for trouble through his own actions

God wasn't the problem-causer—He was the promise-giver. Joseph's impurities caused him to go through a purifying fire, but God's promise remained.

How Does God's Word Purify Us?

Psalm 105:19 says, "Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him." The Hebrew word for "tested" means to refine, to smelt, to purify by fire—like metal in a crucible.

When pressure comes against us:

- Our pride is consumed
- Our superficiality is burned away
- Our fleshly tendencies are purified

Like gold heated to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit, the impurities (dross) rise to the surface and are removed, leaving behind something pure and valuable. This is what God does in our lives through trials.

Why Don't We See Our True Value?

Often we can't see our own value because of all the "dross" in the way:

- We focus on our flaws and mistakes
- We second-guess ourselves
- We see our imperfections rather than our potential

But underneath is the real gold—a child of God, washed in the blood of Jesus, made righteous, an heir to the throne. The purifying process removes what's disguising your true value so others can see the glory of God in your life.

What Happens When We're Purified?

Joseph's transformation is remarkable. Early on, he bragged about his spiritual gifts. But after purification, when standing before Pharaoh, he humbly said, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

The Bible says:

- "Pride goes before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18)
- "Honor comes before humility" (Proverbs 15:33)

When Joseph became humble, focusing on God rather than himself, he was elevated to rule the entire known world. The very trials that seemed to destroy him became the pathway to his destiny.

Life Application

Your stumbling blocks can become your greatest stepping stones. Here's how to apply Joseph's story to your life:

- Hold onto God's promises even when circumstances seem to contradict them. The Word of God in your heart will keep you from being crushed.

- Recognize your own role in your difficulties. Take responsibility rather than blaming God or others.
- View trials as purification, not punishment. Ask yourself: What impurities might God be removing from my life through this situation?
- Stay patient with yourself as you grow. Repent of mistakes but don't be discouraged by them—they're part of the refining process.
- Focus on who you're following, not the difficulty of the path. Ask yourself: Am I magnifying my problems or magnifying God's Word in my life?

Remember, what looks like loss can become your greatest gain. Your future is bright because God is faithful to complete what He started in you. The enemy can't take what truly matters—your identity in Christ and God's purpose for your life.

What area of your life seems stolen or lost right now? How might God be using this situation to purify you for something greater?

Quotes

1. "The enemy can't take what I have. He can't.
2. "Our God is so good that He knows exactly what was taken. And He is able to restore your life so thoroughly that the devil will actually regret ever messing with you. You'll be so abundantly blessed, so exonerated and justified by what God gives you, that it will more than make up for any time or anything that seemed stolen or lost."
3. "What the devils done is not where this story ends. It doesn't end with the works of the devil. It ends with the Word of God. Stay with the Word."

4. "God' didn't do it—Joseph's own sin, pride, and arrogance — his flesh — got him into the trouble he was in."
5. "God was the promise in all of it. He wasn't the problem causer."
6. "God makes really good promises, and He knows how to keep them."
7. "Don't you wish people were as excited about you as you are about you?"
8. "We need discernment."
9. "An empty can is easy to crush. And people get crushed all the time by crisis. But a full can (someone filled with God), isn't crushed by pressure, but purified by it."
10. " People lose things all the time. But for those who hang on to the Word of the Lord — when the enemy comes in to take, to rob, to pressure, even when we've given the devil place — the Word of God keeps us."
11. "The very problems you caused can become the fire that purifies the very thing in you that caused those problems."
12. "Many people don't see their real value."
13. "Clinging to the Word, even when life is unfair and painful, purifies your character, strengthens your faith, and makes you ready to fulfill God's dream for your life."
14. "Your stumbling blocks are going to become your greatest stepping stones. You are coming up and going over in the name of Jesus."

Verses

1. Psalm 105:16
2. Psalm 105:19
3. Genesis
4. 2 Corinthians 4

Summary

When life seems unfair, Joseph's story offers powerful hope. Though his brothers sold him into slavery and he spent years in prison, God transformed these apparent losses into incredible gain. Joseph ultimately became ruler of Egypt, saved nations from famine, and reconciled with his family. His journey teaches us that our trials aren't punishment but purification—removing impurities like pride and revealing our true value. Through Joseph's example, we learn that what appears to be stolen time or lost opportunities can become stepping stones to our destiny when we hold onto God's promises and allow His Word to refine us.