

PATH TO PENTECOST

“Eyes of the Spirit: Seeing Into Eternity”

(Genesis 45:4-11)

“So Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come near to me, please.’ And they came near. And he said, ‘I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’”

Obedience, even when it is painful, is always required of us. For example,

- If Joseph had not faithfully operated in the gift God gave, his brothers would not have become angry.
- They may not have thrown their brother into a pit eventually selling him into slavery.
- If that had not occurred, Joseph would not have ended up a slave serving in Potiphers house for two years.
- Had he not been in Potiphers house, he would not have been falsely accused by the wife of Potipher.
- If that had not happened, he would not have gone to prison for eleven years.
- If he had not gone to prison, he would not have been noticed by the right people for his outstanding gift.
- If these people had not noticed him, Pharaoh would not have heard of Joseph.

- Joseph would not have had an audience with the King whereby he prophesied and found favor.
- If not favor with the King, no position of influence and leadership.
- No position of influence and leadership, no opportunity to rescue his family from famine.
- Had the family not come into Egypt, **there would have been no future for Israel.**

So what do we see in Joseph's life that should inspire and transform us? First of all, Joseph had ...

❖ Fellowship with God (*Genesis 37:5,9 Genesis 39:2,21 Genesis 40:8*)

❖ Favor with God and Man (*Genesis 37:3; Genesis 39:4,21; Genesis 41:39-41*)

- When he was in his father's house he had favor in the eyes of his father.
- When he was a slave in Potiphar's house he had favor in the eyes of Potiphar.
- When he was a prisoner in jail he had favor in the eyes of the prison keeper.
- When he stood before Pharaoh he had favor in the eyes of Pharaoh.

❖ Faithfulness in His Responsibilities (*Genesis 37:2 Genesis 39:6,22,23*)

❖ Fear of God (*Genesis 39:7-20*)

❖ Forgiving Nature (*Genesis 50:19-21 Genesis 40:14-15 Genesis 42:21*)

❖ Fortitude (*Psalms 105:19-20*)

Joseph had fortitude and endurance. He endured ...

- Hatred: *Genesis 37:4*
- Envy: *Genesis 37:11*
- Slavery: *Genesis 37:28*
- Temptation: *Genesis 39:7-10*
- False Accusation: *Genesis 39:14*
- Prison life: *Genesis 39:20*
- Ingratitude: *Genesis 40:23*

Joseph was a young man who was ...

❖ Filled with the Spirit (*Genesis 41:38-44*)