

G R O W T H N O T E S

MESSAGE SERIES:

Reflections On Refinement From The Life Joseph – Part 2

Scripture: **Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5-7a**

Today's Message:

“Trusting God ABOVE Everything”

***Jeremiah 29:11 NLT:* 11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.**

***Message Bible:* 11 I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.**

Proverbs 3:5-6/7a

KJV: ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. ⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

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NLT: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

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Message: Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all.

SERIES SUMMARY

In the book of Genesis, from the life of Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, we see invaluable lessons on how we can grow through and not just go through what life throws at us by understanding that God can use every situation for our good.

The trajectory of Joseph's life led to him being **rejected, abandoned, despised, enslavement, entrapment, and imprisonment.** The amazing thing is that Joseph never gave up! Joseph's life could be summarized in one sentence—"In God's hands intended evil becomes eventual good.

- lesson #1—there there were no easy exits—as he was thrown in a pit and left to die;
- lesson #2 we discovered that he could not—and you cannot lose your destiny;
- lesson #3 we learn what to do at the bottom;

- lesson #4 we were reminded that character counts—whether you're the resident of the whitehouse—or just living in your house;
- lesson #5 we witnessed a criminal injustice...
- lesson #6 we learned how to keep bouncing back;
- lesson #7 we grappled with the issue of 'theodicy'—literally the question is God still good when life is not;
- lesson #8—Joseph's joy and gratitude—after all he'd been through—he still had joy!
- *Joseph's story demonstrates—teaches—shows—that no matter what we go through—we're gonna get through this—*

and in the process the goal is to allow the Lord to “Refine” Us...

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SUMMARY OF TODAY’S MESSAGE

The challenge for all of us is to learn to live contingently trusting in the Lord—rather than trying to cling to clarity! *The Apostle, Paul, writing to the Christians in Corinth—in 2 Corinthians 5:7—describes the adventure in simple terms when he wrote: “For we walk by faith—AND—not by sight!”*

But wouldn’t it be great if God provided for us who trust in God a spiritual GPS—turn by turn navigation through life? Wouldn’t that make our lives easier?—THE PROBLEM IS—it would also handicap your faith!

THEREFORE—God bids us to move forward without giving us the details of what the future will bring. BUT—often our fear of the uncertain and the unknown cause us to cling to

the need for clarity & certainty—rather than risk
stepping forward by faith!

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***REFLECTIONS FROM PROVERBS &
THE LIFE OF JOSEPH ON
T R U S T***

***1. “Life at its best—is only experienced as
you trust God beyond what you can see—
understand—OR—comprehend!***

***2. “No Matter What—Trust God ABOVE
Everything...”***

***3. “For The Child Of God—The Lord Is The
Object Of Our Trust AND—Why We Can,
Should & Must Trust God.”***