

HANDOUT PART ONE: UNSHAKABLE FAITH...THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

This Month We are Going to Focus on What it Takes to have an Unshakable Faith!

- You See...I don't Believe there is Anything More Important for A Christian than to Come to the Place that Whatever God Allows In Their Life Their Faith Stands Firm!
- It's About Becoming Mature in Christ! And As I said last Week...This Requires We're Willing to WAIT on the Lord...Eagerly Expecting God to Do All That He Promised!

Joseph was the first son of Jacob by Rachel. Since Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, it was a natural thing for Jacob to love Joseph more than his other children. So, Joseph's Brothers Resented & Hated him.

READ Genesis 37: 5-11:

We'll See from Joseph's Life ***"Doing the Right Thing Does Not Always Lead to Immediate Blessings!"***

- In Chapter 37, Joseph's Brothers Sold Joseph to some Midianite Traders.
- Joseph was Brought to Egypt where the Midianite Traders Sold him to Potiphar, "an Officer of Pharaoh and Captain of the Guard" (Genesis 37:36). However, Joseph Stayed Faithful and Obedient to the Commandments of God Even While Being in Captivity in a Foreign Land.
- **Q:** How Would You Respond in this Situation? **Would You Trust God & Remain Faithful to Him?**

We See...Joseph had An "Unshakable Faith" that God was Sovereign and So he Surrendered to Gods Plan Even Though he did Not Understand it!

Because of Joseph's Trust and Willingness to Do what Was Right in his Captivity, God Blessed Joseph so that he Found Favor in Potiphar's Sight and was Soon Made the Overseer of his House.

- **KEY: "GOD HONORS THOSE WHO HONOR HIM"** 1 Samuel 2:30b: *But now the Lord declares: 'Those Who Honor Me I Will Honor, But Those Who Despise Me Will be Disdained.*

Joseph's Life Shows Us that ***"Doing the Right Thing Does Not Always Lead to Immediate Blessings!"***

READ Genesis 39:8-12.

- While Joseph is Seeking to Do the Right Thing...Potiphar's wife "casts longing eyes on Joseph" seeking to Seduce him to Lie with her. Joseph Refuses and Overcame the Seduction.
- But The Seduction continued...She Came After Joseph Daily...Finally, as a last Resort. Potiphar's wife had to Force Herself on Joseph...She forced Joseph to Lie with her...**But Joseph Fled.**

Here We See that Satan is Relentless in Getting Us to Not Stay True to Our Faith and Therefore...To Not Do The Right Thing in Gods Eyes!

- *Satan's Strategy is Always the Same...If He Cannot Keep Us from God's Grace...He Works Day and Night to Get Us to Fall in Disgrace!*

Satan Never Stops...1 Peter 5: 8-9 *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."*

Joseph did the right thing...But we see, this did Not lead to something good immediately..

- Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of "Mocking" her and Potiphar's Anger was Aroused Against Joseph.. and put him in Prison. **So Joseph was Imprisoned for Doing the Right Thing.**

Consider: Joseph Could have Been Mad at God for this Undeserved Punishment...After all, he did the Right Thing and he "Deserves" to be Fairly Dealt With...RIGHT?

- **As Christians Trying to do the Right Thing...We Need to Face This Reality! Life May Seem Unfair...But GOD is ALWAYS FAIR.**

There Will Always Be Life's Challenges we Need to Overcome...That is Why These Lessons from the Life of Joseph are Very Important to Learn and Apply.

KEY: Doing the Right thing will Not Always Seem to Lead to a Better Outcome...But What We Will Find is that...God's Ways are Not Man's Ways! **THEY ARE BETTER!!**

Consider...Jesus Christ was Perfect. He did Not even Commit a Single Sin. Yet, He Suffered the Most Excruciating and Agonizing Death Penalty Man has Ever Conceived.

- And We Will Not Escape Life's Problems. Psalm 34:19 Gives a Promise: *The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.*
- The Christian Life is Not Easy. However, God has this to Say for Those who Still Choose to Faithfully Follow Him:

1 Peter 2:19-21 *"For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."*

Jesus Says in Matthew 5:11-12 *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

We Must Realize that Following God and Jesus Christ is "Not Always Convenient". It May Lead to Difficulties and Persecutions. It Will Most Always Cost Us Something!

In Fact...I Believe If My Life is Always Smooth Sailing, *I Better Think Twice Whether I Am On The Right track with the Lord.*

- James 1...Count it Joy When You Go Through Adversities of Every Kind!
- *Trials and Persecutions is How God Matures Us and Builds Our Faith!*

We Live in a Fallen World, Therefore, Life is Expected to be Full of Challenges. So it is Only Natural that We Will Face Difficulties During this Lifetime.

Among the Life Lessons We Learn from Potiphar's Wife is that Satan Will Seek To Get Us to do the Wrong thing...Which Always Ends Up In Suffering.

SO...Like Joseph, Why Not Give Our Suffering a Worthy Reason and Cause?

- *That Being that We Stand Firm for God and Let Nothing Move Us...Knowing that God Will Use It for His Perfect Purpose!*

This is the Foundation Of An Unshakable Faith...Trusting that God is Sovereign and That As We Surrender...Humbly Bow to His Perfect Plan...He Will Lift Us UP!

A Final Thought: We Cannot Grow Our Own Faith. That is Solely the Work of God the Holy Spirit.

Unshakable Faith Comes as We Actively Surrender to Gods Plan...And Position Ourselves to Cooperate with The Holy Spirit's Acting and Moving In Our Lives!

"LIFE" POINT: Faith is Not Trusting in My Own Unshakable Belief...Faith is Believing in An Unshakable God When Everything in Me Trembles and Quakes!