

HANDOUT PART 3 UNSHAKABLE FAITH “GOD USE OF DELAYED GRATIFICATION!”

READ GENESIS 37:5-9 *Imagine Waiting 13 Years to Receive Gods Promise! That Almost Seems Impossible Today as The World today Demands “INSTANT GRATIFICATION”! But God Makes it Clear To Have an Unshakable Faith Like Joseph We Need to Overcome the Temptation of “Expecting and Demanding” INSTANT GRATIFICATION!*

On New Year’s Day we Focused on...WHY WAIT. We Looked at Isaiah 40:31 *“But they that Wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. The Hebrew Root for Wait is “Qa-Wah” And It Means “To Wait...to Look for...Or Hope with Eager Expectation.”*

- POINT MADE...*Waiting with Expectation (Being Patient) is the “Very Essence” of a Person’s Faith...Waiting is NOT a Passive Attitude...Rather it is an ACTION VERB!*
- **READ JAMES 1: 2-4** For Us To Become Mature in Christ Requires that WE WAIT *Eagerly Expecting* God to Do All That He Promised! ****We Rest Upon God in Faith!**
- A KEY ELEMENT OF “UNSHAKABLE FAITH” IS PATIENCE. (Willing to Wait on God)
- Joseph Did Not Know When or how that Would Happen...All he Knew is that God Never Lies (Titus 1:2) and What God Promises, He Will Always Deliver (Isa 46:10)

From the Life of Joseph We Learn Why God Uses Delayed Gratification in Our Lives. It’s God’s Process of Teaching Us to Deny Ourselves of the Temporary and Immediate Pleasure that This World Seeks After... Or For the Concerns of Life that Come! God Want Us to Learn to Experience the Greater Joy and the Genuine Blessing Of Waiting for Him to Reveal To Us...His Perfect Plan.

Joseph could have Easily Succumbed to the Seduction of Potiphar’s Wife and Enjoy the Brief Pleasure of Sin. Joseph Responded, *How can I do this Great Wickedness, and Sin Against God.*

- **KEY: Unshakable Faith Will NOT Compromise...It Stands Firm on Gods Word!**

Satan is Cunning and Always Presents Sin as Something Desirable. BUT SIN WILL ALWAYS BE SIN! Like Adam and Eve...Once You Take a Bite...You Will Never be Able to Escape its Ugly and Deadly Effect!

- *God Set a Spiritual Law in Motion that...Whoever Sins Will Have to Suffer Its Consequences.*
- *Anything Satan Offers Us to Compromise Christ is A Deception...he Uses it for One Purpose Only to Destroy Our Integrity, And Have Us Fall in Disgrace!*

WISDOM Is Choosing NOT to Enjoy Sin’s Deception of A Momentary Pleasure, Rather To Follow Gods Command with “Unshakable Faith” And Enjoy His Fullest Blessings!

Delayed Gratification is Among the Marks of Mature Christians! Delayed Gratification Simply Means that a Christian is Willing to GIVE UP Something NOW...TO OBTAIN A BETTER REWARD IN THE FUTURE!

- *Joseph Understood this Principle and Chose to Honor God and Trust Him even in Captivity...Rather than Walk Away from God OR...Fall to Satan’s Snare with Potiphar’s Wife!*

Consider This...What God Prophesized to Joseph Took 13 Years to Come to Fruition!

- *And Because Joseph Stayed Faithful to God...God Used that Incubation Period to Prepare Joseph to be the Man God Planned Him to Be!*

I Believe it Was these 13 Years of Waiting in Captivity that Prepared Joseph to Love His Brothers Who Meant Him Harm and to Accomplish God’s Perfect Plan.

Delayed Gratification Demands a Great Deal of Discipline and Will-Power. NO Christian Will Ever be Successful in their Walk Without Saying “NO” to the Pleasures of Sin...Neither Will They Please God Unless they are Willing to Let God Work His Plan in Their Life Even When They Cannot Understand it!

- **Unshakable Faith...Trust Gods Heart Even When...We Cannot See His Hand!**

So What Does it Take to Develop a Heart Willing to Accept Delayed Gratification?

First, God's Word says We Must Be Willing to Deny Ourselves:

- Jesus tells us in Matthew 16:24: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*
- **This is the Foundation of the Christian Life...Before we can Successfully follow Christ, We Need to First DENY Ourselves and Daily Take Up Our Cross.**

Secondly, Delayed Gratification Should Motivate Us to Correctly Prioritize Things in our lives.

- Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: *"But Seek First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and All these things shall be Added to You"*. **Not Everything Can Have the Same Value.** *If You Recognize the Kingdom of God as something of Value, then it Demands that You Spend Time Pursuing It!*
- **KEY: We Cannot Just Claim to Be in God's Kingdom Without Exerting the Energy and Time to Pursue it.** Therefore, Delayed Gratification needs to be Intentionally and Deliberately Planned.

We All have 24 Hours a Day! As You Plan Your Day, Week, Year or LIFE...Are You Willing to Follow Matthew 6:33 *"To seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, Knowing all these things shall be added to you"*.

Knowing the Value of God's Reward is Vital: Here's Why... *If You Don't Know What You're Fighting For... You Will Lose the Will to Fight.*

People Give in to Different Temptations Because they Feel that the Temporary Pleasure of Sin is Better than what God is Offering Them Right Now! Satan is the Great Deceiver. He is Masterful In Presenting SIN in What Looks Like Beautiful Wrappings. **However, The Reward that Satan Entices Us With...Does Not Compare to the Rewards That Await Us in Heaven!!!**

When You Understand God's Reward Waiting For YOU....You Will Master the Art of Delayed Gratification,

- I Cor. 2:9: But as it is written: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*
- *If We Have that VISION of God's Reward Deeply Ingrained in Our Hearts and Minds... We Will Have a Powerful Motivation to Stick To That Course with Unshakable Faith!*

Lastly, As We have Always Heard, *"Good Things Come to Those Who Wait"*.

- God often tells His people to "Stand Still" and Be Patient...However, for Many, this is Among the Most Difficult Commands to Follow.

It Is NOT Our Nature To WAIT...So Too Often, We Try to Solve Our Problems On Our Own... Thinking We do NOT Need God's Help...OR THAT WE CAN DO IT BETTER! A Recipe for Disaster

PATIENCE IS ONE OF GODS VIRTUES! Patience is Part of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). So, Every Christian Must Strive to Increase Their Level of Patience.

Just Like Joseph...Our Christian Calling is Never Easy but the REWARD is Much Greater Than Any of Us Can Ever Imagine this Side of Heaven!

1 Samuel 12:16 Describes the Essence of Unshakable Faith ***"Now then, Stand Still and See this Great Thing the LORD is About to Do before Your Eyes!"***

"LIFE" POINT "When I Cannot See His Hand...I Will Trust Gods Heart!"