

Think Ahead— Driven by Your Dreams

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 NLT

These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when he was seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers, while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a multicolored tunic. ⁴And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. ⁵Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; ⁷for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf stood up and also remained standing; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." Genesis 37:2-7 NASB

If money were no object, what would you do for the rest of your life?

**Everyone ends up somewhere.
Few people end up somewhere on purpose.**

Four Phases of Living With Divine Purpose

1. The Spirit's Prompting

2. Certain Uncertainty

He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; ⁷for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf stood up and also remained standing; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf."

Genesis 37:6-7 NASB

3. Predictable Resistance

When they saw him from a distance, and before he came closer to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. ¹⁹They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer! ²⁰Now then, come and let’s kill him, and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘A vicious animal devoured him.’ Then we will see what will become of his dreams!” ²¹But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands by saying, “Let’s not take his life.” ²²Then Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him” ...

Genesis 37:18-22 NASB

So Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; and he was there in the prison. Genesis 39:20 NASB

He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand; ²²but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. Genesis 40:21-23 NASB

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It has nothing to do with me; God will give Pharaoh an answer for his own good.” Genesis 41:15-16 NASB

So now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and appoint him over the land of Egypt. ... ³⁸Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom there is a divine spirit?” ³⁹So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people shall be obedient to you; only regarding the throne will I be greater than you.” Genesis 41:33, 38-40 NASB

4. Uncommon Clarity

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come closer to me.” And they came closer. And he said, “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold to Egypt. ⁵Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me ahead of you to save lives. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷So God sent me ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on the earth, and to keep you alive

by a great deliverance. ⁸Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.” Genesis 45:4-8 NASB

TALK IT OVER

Read **Genesis 45:4-8**. What can we learn about God’s purpose for our lives from the story of Joseph? How does this story help you understand the way God works in the waiting?

We can face resistance when we step into God’s calling for our lives. Share about a time when you experienced resistance while pursuing God’s call for your life. How did this discomfort help you grow?

Talk about God’s purpose for your life. What breaks your heart, and what can you do about it? Share any next steps you need to take in order to step into God’s calling for your life.