

# Criteria and Keys For Success

(Part 1)

*“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. <sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, <sup>4</sup> Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. <sup>5</sup> From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. <sup>6</sup> So he left in Joseph’s care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, <sup>7</sup> and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” <sup>8</sup> But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. <sup>9</sup> No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” <sup>10</sup> And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. <sup>11</sup> One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. <sup>12</sup> She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. <sup>13</sup> When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, <sup>14</sup> she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. <sup>15</sup> When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” <sup>16</sup> She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. <sup>17</sup> Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. <sup>18</sup> But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” <sup>19</sup> When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. <sup>20</sup> Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.” (Genesis 39:1-23)*

Surely, as we read above and in the next chapters of the book of Genesis 40-45, God was clearly with Joseph and prospered him and he had given him success in whatever He did. But also sure that God would not be with Joseph and give him success unless there are good characters in Joseph who responded to God’s grace and love.

As you know as background and history of Joseph that he was betrayed by his brothers who have being jealous of him and hated him. They thrown him in a well trying to kill him. But later on they took him out and to make money out of him they sold him to the Ishmaelites who took him and sold him again to Potiphar. From the above passage and from the Genesis 40-45 what are the good characters and criteria that helped Joseph to be successful person?

**1- Forgiving:** Joseph did not carry bitterness and anger and nurse grudges in his heart toward those who harmed him. He did not focus on those who harmed him and he did not put in his heart and mind to revenge and pay back those who did evil with him. His forgiveness to them

opened his eyes to see what the good things that God had prepared for him to do. Forgiveness will heal our wounds and grant us the progress forward to achieve what God wants from us to achieve. Check yourself if you have that?

**2- Humble:** Joseph was willing to restart his life as a slave, as a worker and maid in a house. But as he humbled himself in God’s hands the Lord lifted him up, then he became attendant and later on he was put in charge of Potiphar household and over all that he own. Many are unwilling to start from low position or less income job, but in such way they are missing God’s provision and His grace for them. Even after Joseph was well established in Potiphar house he was betrayed by Potiphar wife and that spoiled all what he had build. But even he was put in prison he still did not give up but he started from the beginning. Be like Joseph willing to start from the scratch.

**3- Willingness to be humiliated:** Joseph was humiliated by his own brothers when they thrown him in the well. He was also humiliated when his brothers used him to make money. He was also humiliated when the Ishmaelites sold him as slave to Potiphar. He was humiliated when he was accused falsely by Potiphar’s wife and he was humiliated when he was thrown into prison and stayed there long time. Such kind of humiliation we may pass through and the Lord will allow that to happen. God wants us not to focus on the hurt we receive but on His grace that can sustain us and support us in days of troubles and in times of need. Many who pass through humiliated circumstances they don’t accept that and for them such things should not happen. Instead of accepting that as normal they react and go into grief, with drawl and unwilling to adjust and allow God to heal their wounds. People who are unwilling to be humiliated you hear from them such expressions, ‘I don’t think I can forgive!’ ‘I cannot forget what had happen!’ ‘How they can say that \_\_\_\_\_ and how they can do that?’ ‘I don’t think I can recover!’ If you among such people and react as they react your healing will delay and progress in life will be far from you. Be like Joseph, forget what had happened and don’t look to your wound but look to the healer our God and look forward to the new way and the road that the Lord had paved for you, the way of success and look forward to the prosperity that is waiting for you.

**4- Loyal and submissive to his master:** By virtue and criteria Joseph is higher than Potiphar and even higher than the jailer. But as he was put under them he was willing to listen and obey their instructions. **“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” (Romans 13:1)** Arguments and quarreling with your boss will not serve you or help you. It will just make life more difficult. If your master is cruel and non-understanding the best thing you do with him is to keep calm and silent and continue to do your work in a proper way and pray for him as Jesus advice us, **“bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:28)**

**5- Diligent:** God would not grant Joseph the success unless he was diligent worker and active in doing all his duties and responsibilities. God will not bless lazy people with success. You need to be diligent and active in your work.

**My dear and beloved:** Joseph would not be successful unless he was punctual and keep time and appointments. Be the same like Joseph as a person who know well his job and what he need to do as you agree to pray.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that it showed me clearly my sins, Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord helps me to persevere and help me to have endurance in times of trials and struggles. I commit myself to be humble, willing to forgive, and accepting suffering and humiliation as you accepted that dear Lord to save me. Helps me in my suffering and uphold me with your grace to endure , this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*