

Criteria and Keys For Success

(Part 2)

“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. ² The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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, ⁷ and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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?” ¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. ¹¹ One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹² 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. ¹³ When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” ¹⁶ She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. ¹⁷ Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. ¹⁸ But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” ¹⁹ When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²² 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. ²³ 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)

The word of God it teaches us the way how to live our lives in a successful way. There are commands the word of God declares and dictates we need to heed and follow in our lives so that His grace will have its full effect and impact in our lives. From the above real story of Joseph we can learn more important spiritual truth and facts, in applying them we will find ourselves prosperous and successful.

6- Faithfulness and living in the fear of God: Joseph was faithful to God in keeping the commands of God alive and true in His life. He showed his responsible behavior to keep his identity as a Hebrew person belong to God by keeping himself pure, refusing to sin against God, **“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”** (Psalm 119:11) As well as he showed his faithfulness to God by working hard and in a responsible way in his assignment in the house and in the field. He was a trust worthy person, he knew his responsibilities and he was doing them. He showed he is responsible and

dependable person following what God’s word says, **“²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.”** (Colossians 3:22-25) You do the same in your lives; to fear God and refuse to do wrong, and be faithful in your work by being disciplined, punctual, effective and fruitful in your service.

7- Trusting God: Joseph trusted the Lord and His word. He showed that by his willingness to continue to do right and obey God’s word and commands even when things went wrong or in opposite direction. You also do the same trust God and continue in this life to fully obey Him and walk in His ways. When things go wrong continue to pray and cry to God, trust Him that He will do something good to you upholding you with His grace.

8- Capability to adapt: Joseph brought from Hebrews family and brought in Egypt to live in an Egyptian house. There are lots of things different that Joseph faced in his new atmosphere like the difference in the language, dress, type of food, and other differences in culture and habits. Joseph was able to adapt to the differences but when it comes to sins Joseph did not adapt himself with people ways in living in sin. Capability to adapt with the new culture and atmosphere that God is bringing you is a key for success. But be aware that adaptation to the new atmosphere does not include to sin as the people of the world sin and live away from God.

9- Be a good steward: Joseph was a good manager to what had been entrusted to him. To be a good steward he was a man of wisdom. He knew how to handle people and knew how to speak to each and every person. Even he spoke well to the woman who kept on tempted him to follow her in bed and sin against God. He told her these wise word, **“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. ⁹ 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?”** He spoke the truth in love to her; he preached to her the gospel by showing her sin clearly and directed her to obey God. You need to be wise how to speak and how to present the gospel to each and every person put under your care. Being a steward, included under Joseph care finances, and for sure Joseph managed finances well. One of the important aspects of person’s life is finances, and to know how to manage finances is a key for success. It does not need you much money for success but rather wisdom how to handle what you have.

10- Skillfulness: Joseph used all his skills to manage the work in the house and in the field. Therefore as he was successful in that, he was put in charge of everything in the house and in the field. The Word of God tells us that his master **‘left in Joseph’s care everything he had.’** Skill is needed to overcome difficult situation and will bring success, **“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.”** (Ecclesiastes 10:10) The same to you if you want to be successful then be diligent and from this time on start to use all the skills that God had entrusted in your hand.

My dear and beloved: God had good plans for you **plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** Meditate on God’s word and obey and apply what it says and you will be prosperous and successful 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 I commit myself into your hands to be diligent, faithful and obedient to all the points that you put in my hands in this message, in Jesus name, Amen.