

Life With A Testimony

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

Adverse conditions, troubles and hardships can come across one lives and make things difficult and life miserable. But the Word of God teaches us the following: *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4)*

Joseph was honored by his father Jacob, but his brothers were jealous of him. They wanted to get rid of him so they threw him in a well. Then they thought it would be better to take out of the well, and they did so and sold him as a slave to the Ishmaelites who took him and sold him in Egypt. Joseph as we read inspite of this incident and although he was a slave in Egypt he was not discouraged, and the Lord was with him and he prospered. Joseph was alone, away from his family, away from his country, and among people who don't worship the true God. He was a slave, but the Lord was with him. His master saw that as well and for this reason Joseph found favour from his master and he was put in charge for everything. Joseph was able to overcome all his sorrows and pain and the new circumstances that he was put in and focused his eyes on the Lord who was with him. Life might be tough with you, and you might get betrayed by people nearest to you who alienated you and put you aside in a narrow corner. But take heart you are not alone, the Lord is with you today in whatever place you are. He is besides you, take courage and do all your duties and responsibilities that you had asked to do. Even though you have been put down in a very bad way, God will lift you up and you will found favour from Him and from the people around you.

God prospered Joseph and lift him up above, and when that happened the enemy started to attack him from another direction. We found Potiphar wife try to seduce him to sleep with her. But Joseph was careful and stood firm in front of temptations. Same is for you, temptations of this kind will come but you need to be careful. As Joseph refused to go to bed with her or even be with her, the same policy you should follow, avoid temptation or exposure to situations you know yourself is weak. Don't go there or be in that place. *You have to say, 'No,' to temptation, 'No,' to sin and 'No,' to any evil desire.* Stand firm for that even if you would be persecuted and even if that will be the outcome, ***“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Timothy 3:12)*** But the Lord will not leave you; He will honour you as you honour Him and refuse to defile His name. Persecution would come because of our obedience to keep the Word of God in our lives. But even in the most difficult situation the Lord will not keep us alone, He will come to us and uphold us with His love, mercy and care.

Jesus Christ, He came from heaven to save us from sin and death. He was crucified, hanged on the cross and He was alone. But He did the task entrusted to Him and He persevered to the end to bring salvation to mankind. In the same way we need to do the same, ***“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:21-23)***

My Dear and Beloved: Let it be that your life will be a living testimony in the hands of God. ***“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” (1 Peter 2:12)*** 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, who was buried but rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord forgive me all my sins and my wrong doing. I commit myself into your hands, I realize that you are with me to help me to stand firm and to persevere until the end. Lord make my life your testimony. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*