

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

September 2011.

Did you know Joseph was in prison in Egypt for 13 years for a crime he didn't even commit? Perhaps you, like me, understand exactly what he must have been going through. Potiphor's wife yells rape! Holds onto a key piece of evidence, his jacket, and the next thing you know, Joseph is put in prison for something he didn't even do! Even if he had committed the crime, God has given him a dream of the future. He had shown him what was to come when he was just a teenager (Genesis 37). But those closest to Joseph had other plans. They were jealous of the favor of the Lord on his life, so they conspired at first to kill him, but wound up just throwing him in a pit, thanks to his oldest brother. However, they do sell him to passing traders and he winds up being successful, serving the captain of the Egyptian guards.

The Lord was with Joseph. This is what is most important. The Lord is with you if you let Him be. You can accept Him or reject Him. Joseph committed himself to the Lord. So, God took care of him and he became successful. Are you considered a success where you are at? Can you think back to a time in your life when there was a destiny changing moment? It may have looked like hell itself was gathering you in its arms, but perhaps God was allowing this to thrust you into what He chose you to be, and do, from the beginning of time. Jeremiah 1:5 says; *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."* David said in Psalms 31:15, *"God, my times are in your hands; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!"*

If things seem to be at a standstill, don't go backwards. Just stay still and know that He is God! Don't think for a moment that God didn't know Joseph would wind up in prison. He did! And it's the same for you. We've all made poor decisions or choices in our lives. Yet, we must determine at some point to capitalize on the favor of the Lord and rise to the destiny He has for you! Recently, I've shared with you many things in my own life, which have sought to knock me down, take me out, but I hear the "Wind a-blowin' all across the land. A fragrant breeze of heaven, blowing once again. I don't know where it comes from, I don't know where it goes," but I proclaim "let it blow over me! O, sweet wind come and blow over me" These are the winds of change and favor and if you'll trust Him, He'll propel you into a higher level.

Joseph had to sit back and wait for the right time to go from prison to vice president of the nation! I'm sure he had his downtimes. The times when the enemy seemed to use anything and anybody to discourage him or make him give up. But he held on to his vision! He held onto his dreams! What is your vision? What are your dreams? God will also vindicate you. It will only be a matter of His timing at putting you back where He has set aside for you. And the trap the

enemy has set, they will fall into themselves. I'm beginning to see this more and more every day in my own life. You will too, if you just believe! It takes faith!

When I came to prison, I'd be a fool to not say there was some fear involved. The unknown, what to expect, etc. I've seen a lot of stuff, but I've never lost my faith. David said "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life." You don't think there was maybe a moment to fear when he first saw Goliath? We'll have to ask him when we see him. But we need to believe the best. I believe Joseph kept believing the best. That God would do exactly as He said He would. In Matthew 9:29 Jesus says, "*According to your faith be it done to you.*"

Keep believing and proclaiming that prison leads to promotion! Speak words of life over yourself and those around you and watch God do great and mighty things! "Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered!"

Joseph didn't focus on his surroundings or what had happened to him. He honed his craft as a dream interpreter and obvious organizer. His administrative skills must have been off the chart. He knew he wasn't buried under all the mud of events, but that he had been planted in fertile soil. God had placed him there to grow. Joseph was not a perfect man by any means. He obviously struggled with pride, maybe what seemed like arrogance towards his brothers. He had to be humbled. Is there anything more humbling than prison? I can't think of too many things off the top of my head, can you? But he learned to use his time wisely. Read about him in Genesis 36 – 50. It's a great story. But God has given each of us a story, many yet to be fulfilled.

Your destiny awaits you beyond the walls of these prisons. Don't believe the lies of the enemy or the naysayers. Expect to come out better off than you were before. The last part of Joseph's life was much greater than the first part. God wants the rest of your life to be the most rewarding and the most fulfilled. Stir up those dreams and visions God has given you, and if you don't think you've ever been given any it's not too late to call on Him while He is near, right now, right where you are at. Joseph could have called it quits several times, I'm sure, but he was a get up and fight kind of guy. He knew the God he served would restore everything he had lost and then some. Remember that! The same power that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you! No disappointment, no enemy, no sickness, no challenge, no obstacle can keep you from your God-given destiny! Hard time is not for ALL time. Something good is going to happen to you! Expect your miracle! "If God be for us, who can be against us!" Lift up your head and see the glory of the Lord! We're on the winning team!

I'm praying for your faith to rise! Be blessed!

Chief

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Christ's

Heart

In

Every

Felon