

Faithfulness ... a Winner

by Charlie Fordham

In following the story of Joseph's life in Gen. 37 - his dreams, his bizarre sibling experiences: thrown in a pit to die or be eaten by wild animals; sold to slave traders; pawned off to the a foreign nation: he was apparently at everybody else's mercy!

In the midst of a backfiring of his stand on true moral integrity he was thrown in a foreign jail without a sentence, charge or time limit; forgotten by fellow inmates; no evident control over his circumstances it is apparent that throughout the whole experience he trusted in his God Whom He knew personally. He trusted Him to protect and keep him through it all. Amazing story!

God was responsible for Joseph's dreams as also for their fulfillment. Persecution, perhaps desperate despair in loneliness, fear, distress and ridicule was all triggered by Joseph simply telling his brothers what God had told him in his dreams! They turned bitterly jealous; so much so, in fact, they *hated* him!

Joseph's continual faithfulness to God shows throughout his years of consistent submission even to "enemy authority"; *integrity* in his work, whether jailed or free. Eventually Truth emerges and before the whole world Joseph is vindicated and exalted to a position, which allowed him to be the *real winner* by whom God would save the nation ...as well as his whole family! This is an outstanding lesson of the *faithfulness of God*.

It's a lesson to be observed by all who would like to be successful in God's sight.

Firstly, we should learn that there is no a way to either push or rush this process. Maturity of God's men and women will develop in the *process of His* time. The unfolding of life's experiences are in the hand of God and so are we!

You are His personal concern. Wait for Him!

If there is one characteristic so lacking in our generation and yet so evident in the life of this young man Joseph, it is “**faithfulness**”.

The flesh always wants life to go according to the easiest; the cheapest; the most fun; the least pain; the lowest investment with highest gain; **control** on every hand.

However, and simply, this is **not life in reality**.

God’s “spiritual blessings” for Joseph and his family included both *material bankruptcy and material prosperity; physical persecution and physical exaltation; social alienation and social honour*.

Throughout the ups and downs in his life, Joseph shines in **faithfulness** and God is exalted being magnified in the life of this man Joseph who intentionally chose to trust God through it all!

Be faithful. Be a real winner!