

HOPE and FAITH and JOSEPH

Part II

- I. Review. [Take the time to go online at “paradisecma.org” to listen to last week’s message if you haven’t heard it already.]
 - II. Who’s family was Joseph in and what were the benefits? What are the “hope and faith” applications for us?
 - A. The pre-teen years.
 1. Joseph’s family was **dysfunctional**. So there is hope for me no matter what my family background is, good or bad.
 2. Joseph was the **favored** (“chosen”) child of Jacob and thereby received special **benefits**.
- Application:**
3. Through Christ, I am a **chosen favorite** of my Heavenly Father (Eph. 1:11)...but not because of **anything I have done**. (II Tim. 1:9).
 4. Through Christ I am privileged to receive special **benefits/promises**. And God does not **lie** or **change** His mind when He makes promises.
(II Pet. 1:4; II Cor. 1:20a; Titus 1:2; Mal. 3:6; cf. Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 8:33-39MSG)
 5. Through Christ, I am chosen because God **loves** me.
(Rom. 8:33-39)
- B. The teenage years.
 1. Joseph was sent to get a “**report**” on his brothers.
 2. Around this time, Joseph, age 17, has a pair of God given **dreams**.

Application:

3. Do I have a God given or God sized dream?

“Brethren, we have been born of God and our Christian hope is a valid hope. No emptiness, no vanity, no dreams that cannot come true. Your expectation should rise and you should challenge God and begin to dream high dreams of faith and spiritual attainment and expect God to meet them. You cannot out-hope God and you cannot out-expect God. Remember all your hopes are finite, but all of God’s ability is infinite.”

A. W. Tozer

4. Joseph’s brothers act on their **hatred** and plot to **kill** him.

5. Joseph probably felt that God had **abandoned** him.
(cf. Heb.13:5b)

“God doesn’t use someone mightily that He first doesn’t wound deeply”. Chuck Swindoll.

6. Joseph was experiencing the “**death of a dream**” principle.

“Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.” Psalm 42:11

At Home This Week

1. What were your childhood and teenage years like? How has this shaped your view (positively or negatively) of your relationship with God? Being used of God?
2. Consider again the quote from A.W. Tozer’s. How does this speak to you? Do you have a God sized dream that will bring Him glory?
3. What are some common feelings you have when you lose hope and faith in God? Can you see the connection from thinking to feeling to actions be they good or bad? What plan can you institute to “take every thought captive” so that you are more godly in your actions?



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