

# HOPE, FAITH & JOSEPH

## Part IV

### I. Joseph: From the pits to Potiphar's house to prison.

What are the "hope and faith" applications for us?

A. "Suddenly" events may indicate God's involvement in our lives and may be used by Him for **discipline, training,** or **blessing.**

B. Life in Potiphar's house.

1. Potiphar was the **Captain** of the **Kings'** guard.
2. Joseph was **sold as a slave** to Potiphar at age 17.
3. Joseph was Potiphar's 'run of the mill' slave for **five years.**

Application: In hope's delay it is tempting to think that God has **abandoned** us. Nothing could be further from the truth (cf. Heb. 13:5b). Hope delayed develops **patience.** (Rom. 8:25)

4. Joseph must have felt **hopelessness** at some point.

Application: Hope doesn't mean you **never wrestle** with doubt. Hope means you **persevere** and win the match. (cf. Rom. 5:3-5)

5. Because God **was with him,** Joseph at the age of 22 is given his first official leadership assignment; head of Potiphar's household. He held this post for five years.

Application: Pausing to "see" **God's presence** in our lives can certainly bolster our hope.

6. In the course of everyday life, **temptation comes suddenly** upon Joseph. (cf. Ecc. 9:12)

Integrity is revealed by your **character** and **conduct** when no one else is around.

7. When people who lack integrity are in positions of responsibility over us, sometimes the immediate reward for our integrity is **punishment.** But God has promised to work ALL THINGS together for our good [Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11]. In this promise of God we can have **confident hope.**

## At Home This Week

1. How has the "suddenly" or "destroyed in seconds" effect been experienced in your walk with God? At the time did you determine it was a good or bad occurrence? Do you still hold the same opinion?
2. "Hope doesn't mean you never wrestle with doubt. Hope means you persevere and win the match." Does this truth encourage you? How?
3. When was the last time you stopped to take note of how God "is with you"? If its been a while will you commit to spend some "alone time" with God to reflect on His "being with" ...YOU?
4. Can you share an experience where temptation has hit you "suddenly"? How did you handle it? In the "suddenly" temptation moment what hope does I Cor. 10:13 give you?
5. Have you ever been punished for doing the right thing? What did that do to your sense of justice?...your attitude towards God?



Dr. Larry G. Shelton  
Contemporary Service