

HOPE, FAITH & JOSEPH

Part V

I. Where does/should our hope come from?

- A. From God **Himself** (II Thess. 2:16-17).
- B. From God's **Word** (Ps. 119:81; cf. Rom. 4:18).

II. Joseph: From Potiphar's house to prison to palace.

What are the hope and faith implications for us?

- A. Even in **suffering** and **setbacks**, we can have hope (Rom. 8:24b; 4:18; 5:3-5).
- B. When you feel you are running out of hope, **ask the God of hope** for more! (Rom. 15:13)
- C. An awareness of God's **presence** can change your attitude from hopelessness to hope...from bad to good! (See Ps. 23:4)
- D. Even our darkest hour we can have hope knowing that though we may be forgotten by "**man**", we are never forgotten by **God** (Is. 49:15).
- E. Meditation on the **truths** of God and the **character** of God can bring hope in hopeless times...(Ps. 42:11; Rom. 8:32) as well as expose **misplaced** hopes (I Tim. 6:17).

III. Joseph receives his hopes' reward.

- A. Your **outlook on life** will be determined by where your hope lies.
- B. Hope can empower us to **persevere** and **endure** (I Thess. 1:3).
- C. Hope "sees" that the suffering and setbacks of life can be used of God to teach us the **skills** and **character** needed for God's purposes which are still ahead of us (Rom. 8:28).
- D. Because his hope and faith were firmly founded in God, Joseph handled his promotion and prosperity with **humility**.
"For every 1,000 people who can handle adversity, there is only 1 who can handle prosperity."

At Home This Week

1. Are there things in your life you would declare hopeless? How does the following verse apply to you? Romans 4:18 (Msg) "When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said [His Word/promise] He would do."
2. Do you think you could use more hope these days? Have you asked God for more? Why or why not?
3. Think of the last time your mood went sour. How could "practicing the presence of God" affected you in that time?
4. In those "down times" what does your "self talk" sound like? To be better prepared for the next "down time", would you be willing to memorize the following verse? (Psalm 42:11 "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.")
5. During your life, what affect has "hope" had on your outlook?
6. "For every 1,000 people who can handle adversity, there is only one who can handle prosperity." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? What would God need to do in you to make you that 1 in 1,000 person? Are you willing?



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