

The overcoming faith of Joseph

- To be like Joseph we must be born again as a "new man" in the image of Jesus Christ!
- Col 3:10; Rom 8:29
- If any man be "in Christ" he is a "new creature." - 2 Cor 5:17
- That which is born of the "flesh is flesh" but that which is born of the "Spirit is spirit".
- John 3:6
- Adam was made a "living soul"; Christ was made a "quickening spirit". - 1 Cor 15:45
- The natural man (old man) was soulish in nature and seeks to do his own will and please the flesh. The old man operates by emotions and feelings. The spiritual man (new man) is a spirit-man that seeks to do God's will and please our Father! The new man operates by grace, righteousness, truth, and true holiness (not by feelings).
- Eph 4:24; 5:8-9
- This "new man" has the "faith of Christ" and lives by this faith - Gal 2:20
- This "faith" that we have is "overcoming faith" - 1 John 5:1-5

To reign like Joseph one day, we must "overcome" as Joseph did. This process involves sufferings. We cannot reign, unless we suffer. - Romans 8:17-18

We cannot reign with Christ, unless we "overcome" like Joseph/Christ - Revelation 2-3

We must understand though, whenever we take a step of overcoming faith, there will always be a negative consequence because the devil and worldly people want to do everything they can to keep us from moving forward to become more like Jesus Christ. They want us to stay "normal" like the rest of them. But praise God, whenever we take a step of overcoming faith in him, he will grant a reward that is FAR greater than the attack.

The overcoming faith of Joseph

1. He overcame "**peer pressure**" (being concerned about what people thought about him. - Genesis 37:2.
 - He was willing to call evil evil and didn't care what the result was. He cared about righteousness. - John 7:7
 1. Negative Consequence: His brothers hated him and spoke evil of him.
 2. Reward: He was beloved of his father.
2. He overcame **his brothers hate** by speaking the truth that God revealed to him. - Genesis 37:5-11
 - He wasn't going to let their hate keep him from rejoicing in the truth that God revealed to him! We must not keep silence. - Isaiah 62:6; John 8:26
 1. Negative Consequence: His brothers hate turned to envy.
 2. Reward: Seeds were being planted in hearts; he had joy.

3. He overcame **his "duty"** by going the extra mile to carry out his father's will. - Genesis 37:12-17
 - He wasn't going to just do his "duty" but rather (even despite his brothers attitude toward him) he cared for them and went the "extra mile" for them (literally about 12 extra miles he walked). - Matthew 5:41-48
 1. Negative Consequence: His brothers abused him, cast him into a pit, sold him into slavery, and lied about what happened to him!
 2. Reward: God took him out of that unhealthy situation and put him into a better place!
4. He overcame **the hurt and pain of betrayal** by continuing to be faithful and a help to others. - Genesis 39:1-6
 - He wasn't going to let past experiences with other people make him jaded towards all people in the present and future. - Luke 9:51-56; 10:1
 1. Negative Consequence: The devil begins plotting to take him down because Joseph is in the spot light and God is getting the glory.
 2. Reward: God is being glorified, people are being blessed and Joseph is in divine favor with God and man.
5. He overcame **the lust of the flesh** by never yielding an inch (holding onto good understanding and integrity) and fleeing when he had to. - Genesis 37:7-12
 - He refused to give into temptation despite being all alone in a foreign country with no wife and no family. - John 14:30
 1. Negative Consequence: He was lied about, falsely accused, turned against wrongfully by one who admired and trusted him, and cast into prison.
 2. Reward: God saved him permanently out of that temptation of the flesh and granted him a new place to minister where people really needed help.
6. He overcame **the hopelessness and loneliness of being forgotten** by everyone he had ever helped. - Genesis 40:12-15, 20-23; 41:1
 - He maintained faithfulness, patience and hope even despite seeming to have no reward for his ministry. - Mark 14:50; Psalm 31:11-15; Heb 6:10-12; 10:36
 1. Negative Consequence: He had to be stuck 2 full more years in prison after he had a divine encounter with a man who could help him get out.
 2. Reward: God used this waiting period no doubt to work contentment, hope, love, and perfection in Joseph to prepare him for his role and encounters with his brothers in the future! (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4)
7. He overcame **the fear of man/failure and pressure of the moment** when suddenly rushed into the biggest opportunity of his life! - Genesis 41:9-36

- He didn't buckle one bit under pressure or change who he was no matter who he stood before or how "unprepared" he was. - John 18:19-40; 19:1-12
 1. Negative Consequence: He might have appeared to be arrogant or disrespectful at first.
 2. Reward: God blessed his faithfulness and patience with a divine answer AND divine counsel that were both well received by a ready heart and mind who recognized his gifts of God and gave him an honored position to exercise those gifts for the help of many (plus he gained a wife).

- 8. He overcame **the trap of success and power** when suddenly thrust into a position of power, authority, and money like never before (after being a prisoner)- - Gen 41:37-57
 - He didn't take it easy or let success or power get to his head but rather remained determined, focused and consistent to do the very important work that he was assigned to do (for 14 years!) - Hebrews 2:17-18
 1. Negative Consequence: Increased position brings greater responsibility and greater pressure.
 2. Reward: He was able to help prepare for coming famine so that many could be spared and fed; and God blessed him with 2 boys!

- 9. He overcame **the trap of bitterness, unforgiveness and reacting emotionally** when suddenly out of nowhere his brothers showed up looking for food. - Genesis 42
 - He didn't react by his emotions when he saw his brethren and completely shut the door on them and give them no chance to make things right.
 1. Negative Consequence: He had to put up with his brothers and wait to see if they truly had changed.
 2. Reward: He got to watch his brothers and allow his heart to grow back into love and compassion for them.

- 10. He overcame **the love of his own heart** by enduring multiple encounters with them without revealing himself before the time was right. - Genesis 43-45
 - As much as he desperately wanted to be reconciled to his brothers, he carefully executed his plan to test his brothers to see if they had repented (had a true change of heart for their wickedness).
 1. Negative Consequence: He had to deal roughly with his own brothers and throw 1 of them in prison; and he had to deal with the agony of his own love and desire to show them kindness and restrain himself.
 2. Reward: He got to see his brothers show a true change of heart and reveal himself to them with joy and ultimately see his father again before he died!