

1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

What Joseph's brothers put him through was horrendous. Worse still is because Joseph did nothing wrong whatsoever. All of us are entitled to dream as much as we want.

Joseph experienced repeated injustices. From the pit, he was sold as a slave to potiphars house. He gets into potihars house and mrs gets interested. He was nasty handsome and she was just drooling at his sight. Gen 39:6b "Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance."

The bible says she tried to get him daily. When she realized Joseph wasn't interested she decided to take it by force but he ran away. It ended him in prison because he would not hear of it. Now lets not imagine that it was easy for Joseph. I can only imagine what was going through his mind sometimes. "If I agree, I end my misery of slavery" I will get favors from this woman. I will not need to work so much. I will feel greater than my boss potiphar.

Joseph preferred to wait on God. If it meant going to prison so be it. That's exactly where he ended up. He had nothing but a dream. A dream is all you need. You may not have much in life right now, but if you only have a dream, it will bring all your desires to reality.

God's hand was so much on him that everywhere he turned, there was favor. He was loved and favored even in prison.

Then came the time of reckoning, the very brothers that put him through all the trouble finally showed up. It was Joseph's time to teach them manners. If some of us were given a chance to deal with our enemies, very few would be alive.

Joseph's attitude was positioned in God. He did not do what he felt like doing, he did what God wanted him to do.

1. Joseph believed in himself because he believed in God. Don't believe you are worthless because of what others do to you. Joseph looked up to God. What you see, depends mainly on what you look for. To one person the world is desolate, dull and empty, to another the same world looks rich, interesting and full of meaning no matter what they are going through. That was Joseph's mentality because His eyes were fixed on God, the author and finisher of our faith. What are you looking at, your oppressors or your maker. Life responds to your outlook. Joseph came to believe that all the injustices served God's ultimate positive purposes in his life and in the lives of his family members.

2. Joseph was disciplined. Positioning your attitude is a process of building followed by breakthrough. Discipline is key if you are going to make it. Disciplined thoughts confront the brutal facts yet never lose faith. You must maintain unwavering faith that you can and will prevail in the end, regardless of difficulties.

Disciplined actions – where there is no discipline there cannot be greatness. Don't just have discipline, develop a culture of discipline which means you are consistently disciplined.

Attitude is all about practicing timeless principles, honesty, integrity, humility, accountability, mentorship, investments, etc. This was Joseph's story. He was disciplined. Bishop always tells us that the future is for the disciplined. Joseph would have compromised but he was disciplined enough to stay accountable even when nobody was watching. ATTITUDE. You must pay serious attention to the attitude that slows you down. Making it in life requires persistence and a die-hard attitude.

3. Joseph retained faith. Without faith its impossible to please God. This is a very important lesson:- Faith is a substance of things hoped for, an evidence of things not seen. Joseph only had a dream, but he gave it meat. He was expectant. He imagined what his dream would bring once fulfilled. Imagination – is the ability of forming mental images and concepts, in a moment when they are not perceived through sight, hearing or other senses. Imagination also called the "mind's eye," is the creative part of the mind that helps visualize what is not visible with the eyes. Imagination helps provide meaning to experience (dream) and understanding to knowledge (interpretation).

It is a fundamental facility through which people make sense of the world. It is the innate ability and process of inventing partial or complete personal realms within the mind from elements derived from sense perceptions (seeing, exposure, study and hearing) or revealed spiritual truths.

Albert Einstein said, "Imagination ... is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

You could be in prison but your mind is a prime minister. That is what Joseph became because he saw that. Positioning your attitude is walking by faith not by sight.

What separates the people that succeed with those that fail is not the presence or absence of difficulty but how you deal with the inevitable difficulties in life.

4. Joseph did not blame his accusers. Joseph stayed focused on God. Many times when you look at your enemies and what they may have done to you, you cannot go far in life. Positioning your attitude means, overlooking the pressure the enemy is putting on you, by believing and standing on the word of God. Nobody can stop you but yourself. Winners don't look miserably at closed doors, they look expectantly at opening doors. Positioning your attitude is a matter of choice. Joseph chose to passionately wait upon the fulfillment of his dream.

Passion subdues fear. When we challenge our fears, we master them. When we wrestle with our problems, they lose their grip on us. When we dare to confront the things that scare us, we open the door to our liberty. Ask God to give you passion for your dreams so you can position your attitude. If you are passionate about your dream, no obstacle will

stop you, you will turn it into a stepping stone.

5. Joseph loved his enemies. This is the greatest test of attitude. You cannot choose what others do to you, but you can choose how to react towards them. Joseph's brothers were terrified when they realized he didn't die after all. But Joseph had positioned his attitude to be so in tune with God, that he actually told them it was God that used them. You know the worst blow you can give your enemy is to love them inspite of what they've done.

6. Joseph stayed focused. Even when the butler forgot about him in prison, his attitude never changed. Where you focus your attention you create strength and momentum.

5 Characteristics of focus

i) Single mindedness. That means even if someone else seems to be doing better than you, you know your time is coming so you stay focused.

ii) Unwavering in the pursuit of a goal. That means your mind is made up. You are not shaky and wishy washy. You know your dream and your going for it.

iii) Has passion which knows no limits. That means inspite of the storm your not looking back. Even if nobody believes in your mission your focus cannot be moved.

iv) Concentration and definite sense of destiny. Concentration is the key that opens the door to accomplishment. All the energies look to one point, looking neither to the right or left.

v) Boundless vision and commitment to excellence. Never delegate the direction of your life to another person. To finish the race, stay on the track. We accomplish things by directing our desires not ignoring them.

Joseph's focus was doubtless on God and not on his brethren.

7. Joseph stayed out of his own way. Whether you know it or not, you are your greatest enemy. You will never meet a person who will give you as much trouble as yourself. The first and best victory is to conquer yourself. All the significant battles are waged within self.

If we take Joseph's case and analyse it well, we realize that he never stopped himself. He always had the opportunity to blame others, the brothers, Potiphar's wife, the butler, etc. The easiest way out for anyone is to have someone to put the blame on, to use them as scapegoats. Am in jail because of so and so. Am broke because of so and so. I can't get a job because.... Only you can hold yourself back. Only you can stand in your way. Nobody can stop you but you.

If you want to move your greatest obstacle, realize it's you. Talk back to your internal critic. The fear you have is within you. Stop building a case against yourself. Think only of the best, work only for the best and expect only the best. Position your attitude to line up with what God says about you.

Somebody hear me. JOSEPH HAD TO BE IN PRISON AND PHARAOH HAD TO DREAM. Everything about you is in the will and plan of God. My value is determined by how God views me. I am God's cherished possession and treasure.

Thinking you cannot change, is an attitude you must deal with. Many excuse their laziness, lack of discipline, living in constant sin by saying that's just the way I am love me anyway.

Instead of accepting responsibility for our own choices, we give 101 reasons why we are the way we are.

My house is tiny, my job is stressful, it's that time of the month, my hormones are crazy, I'm exhausted, my family, my parents never affirmed me, I don't feel loved, my childhood, my husband.

It is simply saying that other things and people have made us the way we are.

Eve and her husband had no financial issues, no problems at work, no unpleasant neighbors, no in-laws, no pollution. Eve had nothing outside herself to blame for the problems she encountered in her marriage and family. She lived by the choices she made.

You can change and become who God says you are by the power of the Holy Spirit. You can choose to obey God. You are responsible for your own choices. Positioning your attitude is not a maybe, it's a must.