THE POWER OF CHOICE

The Book of Genesis

Read Genesis 39:1–23. Joseph's story in Egypt reminds us that faithfulness is often tested. Although he was sold into slavery, the Lord was with Joseph. When temptation came through Potiphar's wife, Joseph did not rationalize, negotiate, or attempt to use immorality as a means of survival or advancement. Instead, he fled. Joseph chose integrity at great personal cost. In doing so, he honored himself, his master Potiphar, even the woman who tempted him, and most importantly, he honored God. Faithfulness does not always protect us from suffering, but it will preserve our conscience.

Joseph's righteous living in a foreign culture echoes the quiet faithfulness of Enoch, who walked with God in a deeply corrupt world *(Genesis 5:22)*. Neither man was insulated from moral darkness, yet both chose to live differently. Enoch's walk with God and Joseph's refusal to give in to temptation reveal the same truth: holiness is possible even when culture moves in the opposite direction. Faithfulness is not dependent on circumstances but on a heart fixed on honoring the Lord. Both lives testify that obedience is not merely about avoiding sin, but about walking closely with God day by day.

Despite doing what was right, Joseph is falsely accused and unjustly imprisoned. The unfairness is striking, and painfully familiar. Yet Scripture repeats the quiet refrain: "The LORD was with Joseph" *(39:2, 21)*. God's presence does not always remove us from hardship, but it sustains us within it. Joseph's integrity did not bring immediate rescue, but it did position him for God's future purposes and blessings. In time, Joseph's faithfulness would become the means through which God would bless many lives. God's justice may seem delayed, but it is never absent.

For Christians, Joseph's story points forward to Christ and to the call of discipleship in a broken world. Scripture urges believers to flee immorality and to live as lights among the nations *(1 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:6–15)*. Faithful obedience may cost us comfort, reputation, or opportunity, but it places us firmly within the care of a God who sees, remembers, and rewards faithfulness in His time. Like Joseph, we are called to honor God not only when it is easy, but when it is costly. And we can trust that the Lord is at work even when the outcome seems unjust.

Prayerfully consider the following: Where might God be calling you to flee temptation rather than manage it? How can your daily choices honor God and others, even when no one seems to notice? How might God be using your quiet faithfulness to bring blessing?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the warden of the prison."

Genesis 39:21

Weekly Affirmation:

In All Things I Will Run Toward God

JANUARY 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- ○ Read the Book of Genesis
- ○ Watch the Bible Project video on Genesis *(available on the website)*.
- ○ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ○ Each day intentionally place one specific worry or decision in God's hands through prayer.