

When Nothing Seems to Make Sense

How to Practice the Presence of God when
Everything Seems Against You and it's not Your Fault.

What do you do when you do nothing wrong and yet you seem to be battered on every side. How do we practice the presence of God when nothing SEEMS to make sense?

Genesis 39:7-20 KJV

[7] And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. [8] But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; [9] There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? [10] And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. [11] And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. [12] And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. [13] And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, [14] That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: [15] And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. [16] And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. [17] And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: [18] And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. [19] And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. [20] And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

5 Principles to practice the presence of God when nothing makes sense to you:

1. Don't Demand to Understand

It doesn't mean you shouldn't try to understand what happens, but rather, realize that you may not be able to fully grasp what is happening. Joseph did not sin against God. In fact, he was doing the will of God but was lied about by Potiphar's wife and cast into prison. The devil probably whispered in Joseph's ear, "Where is your God now?" "What good is your faith in him?" We shouldn't get the idea that the Christian life is on an ever ascending scale of joy and sweetness, it does not happen that way. Job is a classic example of a man living in faith but his world was turned upside down, he didn't understand. In fact, he even wanted to argue with God about how undeserving he was. It was as if he demanded to understand why this was happening. When we read a newspaper and hear about corruption and vice occurring around us, we ask "God, where are you?, why are you letting this happen?" If there is darkness it is because God has allowed it, but darkness can never overcome the light. Darkness can only occur when the light is withdrawn.

Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV

[5] Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Isaiah 50:10-11 KJV

[10] Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. [11] Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV

[8] For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Don't Fail to be Faithful

Even though Joseph was sent to prison, he did not sit there and sulk, he continued to do the will of God. Joseph was not a fair-weather Christian, only being faithful when the blessing happens. Darkness can only occur when the light is withdrawn.

Genesis 39:21-23 KJV

[21] But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. [22] And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. [23] The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.

3. Don't Bow to Bitterness

When Joseph talked to the butler, he didn't carry on about he'd been wronged and doesn't deserve what's happening. He didn't even mention why he was there. It's very easy for us to become bitter when we feel wrongly implicated but God uses these moments to show us the strength of our faith. One of the greatest tests of life is not how you react when you're punished for doing wrong, but how you react when you're persecuted for doing right.

Genesis 40:14-15 KJV

[14] But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: [15] For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

1 Peter 2:20 KJV

[20] For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

4. Don't be Unwilling to Wait

God will bring you out in his time. The very hairs on your head are numbered, God knows where you are, he hasn't forgotten about you. God has his own schedule, he is in control. God is never late and he's also never ahead of time. Like the sun coming up, you can't hurry it or stop it. Waiting involves humbling ourselves.

1 Peter 5:6 KJV

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Genesis 40:23 KJV

Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Genesis 41:46 KJV

And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Psalms 37:5-9 KJV

[5] Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. [6] And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. [7] Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. [8] Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. [9] For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.

5. Don't Let Your Dreams Dissolve

Joseph had a dream when he was a youth that the world and its resources would be at his feet. During the midst of his incarceration, it would be easy to think that the dream was a thing of the past but God do not forget. With God, all things are possible. Don't doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light. God did not fail Joseph and God will not fail you. If you've never had a dream, get one. The bible says even old men shall dream dreams. It's always too soon to quit and it's never too late to start.

Genesis 41:37-44 KJV

[37] And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. [38] And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is , a man in whom the Spirit of God is ? [39] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art : [40] Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. [41] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. [42] And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; [43] And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. [44] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

