

# GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

07/12/20

## TRUST OVER FEAR SERIES

Message Notes

Message # 5 – “Faithful Through Adversity”

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Perhaps Satan’s most potent weapon against Christians is discouragement.
- B. One of the most important virtues in the Christian life is perseverance. We are called to be faithful even when life doesn’t make sense.
- C. Joseph persevered through tough times for well more than a decade. It’s hoped that his example will inspire us to decide on “a long obedience in the same direction.”

### Lessons From Joseph When Facing Adversity (Put in a box)

- I. Joseph maintained a \_\_\_\_\_ even though it didn’t seem to pay off (Genesis 39:20–23).
  - A. Even in prison, Joseph “bloomed where he was planted.”
  - B. One of the ultimate tests of character is to continue to do your duty even though no one seems to notice.
- II. Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ even though he had troubles of his own (Genesis 40:4–7).
  - A. Joseph asked two other prisoners, “Why are you so down today?” His sensitivity to the hurts of others is further evidence of his faithfulness to God.
- III. Joseph maintained a \_\_\_\_\_ even though he couldn’t see much evidence of God’s blessing (Genesis 40:8).
  - A. Instead of taking personal credit for the ability to interpret dreams, Joseph responded, “Interpretations of dreams belong to God.”
  - B. Tim Tebow is a positive example of a modern athlete who used his platform to glorify God even when his career wasn’t going well.
- IV. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ even though the use of that gift wasn’t totally fulfilled in his own life (Genesis 40:9–15).
  - A. Joseph hadn’t lost his gifts through years of separation from his Hebrew culture. His walk with God was still authentic.

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B. After interpreting the dream he asked the cupbearer for a favor: “Mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison.”

1. Some speculate that Joseph tried to manipulate his situation rather than trusting in God to release him in His timing.
2. But Joseph did what he could to improve his circumstances. We should too.

V. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ to the baker even though it wasn't good news (Genesis 40:16–17).

A. Joseph knew that the baker's dream meant he was going to be executed, and Joseph related God's truth even though it wasn't what the baker wanted to hear.

B. If you're in a position to talk to somebody about a terminal illness, tactfully tell the truth.

VI. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ even though the cupbearer disappointed him (Genesis 40:20–23).

A. The cupbearer forgot Joseph—for two long years!

B. The cupbearer's memory lapse could have been the straw that broke the camel's back. But in spite of all those reasons for discouragement, Joseph held on.

## CONCLUSION

A. Maybe you are languishing right now in some kind of prison: a futile job, a physical limitation, or a dead-end relationship.

B. Just hold on. God is faithful. He will reward your faithfulness in His time.