

Gen 39:11-20a Read

James 1:2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way

Title: The year to just believe if you can learn and grow through the tough times

Very important to understand

Joseph did not allow disappointments and hardships to steal his dream

Joseph refused to let the injustice of his situation stop the work of God in his life

A fact of life = when following your dream = there will be tribulations

John 16:33b In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world

Important ingredient in following dreams = hang in there

Many times God will allow certain things = so we can grow

Rom 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Other commentaries state

We also boast about afflictions

But we triumph even in our troubles

We exult also in our distresses

Question: why would they say positive things about tribulations

Tribulations produce 3 good things in us which gives us success

1. Tribulations produce perseverance

Rom 5:3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance

James 1:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience

- **Perseverance involves fighting the battle while you are waiting**
- **Perseverance demands that you fight the good fight of faith while you wait**

Fact: due to no fault of Joseph he stayed in jail 13 years before opportunity came but kept positive outlook and God prospered him and gave him success

Gen 39:20b-23 But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did

2. Perseverance produces character

Character involves doing the right thing under bad or abnormal circumstances

Fact: Character is learned, we were not born with character

Fact: Character is developed as we are subjected to adversity

Fact: Without character you will not succeed in your destiny God has planned for you

Fact: God will not allow you to step into your destiny until you have a certain level of character

Fact: God uses tribulation to help us develop character

Fact: The deeper we go into the destiny God has planned for us, the deeper the character that will be required

Fact: Sometimes only tribulations will show us our true character

Jesus had to learn through trials and tribulations

Heb 5:8 (msg) Though he was God's son, he learned trusting-obedience by what he suffered

3. Character produces hope

Joseph had 13 years to get bitter but kept his focus and hope on God

Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Rom 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.