

WORD LIVING

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OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to offer help to families with budgeting and planning. We assist families in obtaining knowledge and awareness of all human resources/ services available to them. We sponsor FREE seminars that coordinate various services to meet changing needs. For more information on events we sponsor visit us on FACEBOOK or our website: www.stewardsinaction.com.



*helping people...
help themselves*

WELCOME TO
WORD LIVING 2015

Welcome and thank you for sharing this journey of Joseph with us. What a blessing to be alive this second month of 2015 and know that our God is still in control and knows each of us by name.

This morning, before dawn, the Lord spoke to me about the love story woven in the journey of Joseph.

Write about the depth of my love for Joseph as he traveled from the pit to the throne. I asked, "Lord, how can one see your love in a journey that was filled with so much pain?"

"How can love be seen when Joseph was separated from his family as a teen, a slave, and a prisoner in a strange land?"

The depth of love is not measured in the physical things seen, but in the fact that I AM LOVE - I John 4:8.

My love is seen when punishment is rendered for disobedience. You call it grace and mercy, but that is my love in action. I give blessing undeserved and withhold deserved judgment. I am a God of love.

As the world turned on its axis and the sun peeked over the horizon saying good night to some and good morning to others. I welcomed the sunshine and once again, reviewed the the story of Joseph to see evidence of God's love for him as he journeyed.

LOVE

To feel affection for, be devoted to, and/or care for someone are ways to describe the meaning of love. John 3:16 notes that love is an action word – For God so loved the world that he gave....

When we can see God's love in the journey of Joseph, we can be reassured that he is with us in the mist of our storm.

Lord, open our eyes to see your love in every aspect of our journey.

FROM THE PIT TO THE THRONE – WHERE IS GOD'S LOVE?

I would have loved to interview Joseph as he began his journey not understanding the plan God had for his life. This would have been the perfect place to include his thoughts as he faced the future without his family in a strange land.

I asked Perry Junior, our son, about God's love and his feelings about his journey with cancer. "God has a plan for me and this is the path that he has chosen for me to travel. I trust him and I know he loves me. It is all about his will and I am at peace whatever his decision is for my life. I will be healed here or there."

I pondered his statement and relaxed demeanor. Then my Lord reminded me that the sun does not stop shining on a cloudy day. The clouds just block the sun from being seen, but the sun is still shining. Just as the clouds block the sun from our view, circumstances sometimes block the love of God from our view. We must remember we are not separated from his love for his love is always with us. Romans 8:37-39

WHERE IS GOD'S LOVE?

To say Joseph's home was a place of love of family, truth, and Godly living would be somewhat misleading. In fact, Jacob, Joseph's father, was a thief and a liar. (Genesis chapter 27...note chapter 47:8-9). Jacob loved Joseph more than He loved his other children and that caused deep-rooted jealousy and hatred (Genesis 37:3-4) It is no wonder Joseph's brothers desired to kill him as he walked among them wearing his coat of many colors given to him by their father.

Adding insult to injury, Joseph told his family about his dream that his brothers, even his father and mother bowed to him. That would be the driving force that moved the brothers to act out what had longed been in their hearts, to rid themselves of Joseph. Perhaps they thought their lives would be better and their father would love them as much if there were no Joseph.

Funny, how plans of deception seem to backfire and yet, people continue to try to get ahead by any means necessary only to fail causing deep pain for others and themselves. (Genesis 37:22 - 35)

So, where was God's love?

- ✓ In the blessing of Rachel to be loved, conceive and bare a son (Genesis 29:30 & 30:22-24)
- ✓ In the plan of Joseph life such that the death had no power to take his life
- ✓ In the pit, the place where all other support could not enter. A place of isolation without earthly resources so Joseph could see himself as a mortal being, totally dependent on God for everything
- ✓ In his power such that the pit could not break Joseph, death could not claim him because God alone sustained him. One may call the pit, a place of change where you enter with stuff we think we need and depart with all we need.
- ✓ In the journey – God provided training to build Joseph's endurance. That is the stamina to survive Satan's vicious and relentless attacks.

GOD'S LOVE?

One could say there are other ways to get from Point A to Point B and God could have chosen an easier path. True, but God knows what we need in order to achieve his purpose and his plan.

There is no easy road to travel for Satan desires to defeat our Lord by making us follow the cravings of the flesh. The flesh desires to take the easy route rather than the road less traveled.



THE LESSON FROM THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

When we read about great accomplishments, the story usually portrays endless hours of effort to achieve the goal. One cannot just get up one morning and win an Olympic Gold Medal.

Going for the Goal - We have all heard tales of the physical preparation Olympic athletes undergo during their training. Athletes, at that caliber, have to train more than five or six hours per day and even that does not guarantee a medal.

Training also includes preparing your mind to think like a winner that is to gradually increase their focus until the athlete understands and is in control of all their daily actions – nothing is wasted, everything is done with a reason because, nobody can get into the Olympics on physical ability alone. Since there is rarely any major physical difference between top athletes, the difference lies on the **cognitive** level. **(How much time do we train for Christian living?)**

The Power of Practice and Repetition - they train repeatedly so their muscles will remember the movements and their body will react to the environment without activating the brain. Now, the more you repeat a certain action, the better that neuron network becomes at performing the task. Commit to it, practice and repeat. **(Saying ‘NO’ to Satan every time)**

Your ability to focus on a goal is directly influenced by your motivation.

Motivation is a part of a reactionary system that has a purpose; it helps us fill a need and gives us a sense of an inner fulfillment sensation and not from external motivation. **(What is your goal?)**

Olympic athletes tend to isolate themselves before big tournaments because any **interference with their training regime has the potential to steal their focus.** REF: Internet

Training concept used can be found in God's word. For next time read Hebrews chapter 12 and James chapter 1. The journey continues next time.

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