

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. We hope you feel the excitement of Spring and the wonderful thoughts of new life as trees bud, flowers come forth in all of their beauty, the sky of blue, sunrise and sunset all designed by God because of his undying love for us.

We have been writing about the journey of Joseph and though I had read the story many times, the Lord continues to point out so many lessons that are essential for us today.

You see, Ecclesiastes 1:9 notes there is nothing new under the sun. Therefore, what we learn from the story can influence our thought process such that we make Godly decisions in every aspect of our life.

Everything that happens prepares our mind to think beyond the present, the pain, the suffering, this temporary life, and press with all our might to receive the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14

In order to reach the goal and receive the prize, we must learn to control all of our daily actions, which is the reason for the training. We face many obstacles– nothing is wasted, everything is done for a reason so that we are mentally and physically prepared to be used by God.

During the training period, we learn what is important and how to lay aside “stuff” that can weigh us down. When our focus is on winning, the training is hard but not impossible. As we practice daily, the pain becomes less and less.

Others have made it and encourage us to continue with patience for the journey is a lifetime and each day helps prepares us for the next.

Our failures and our accomplishments are both teachers. On our own, we fail but when we yield all to the power of Jesus, we win because he cannot fail. REF: Hebrews 12: 1-4

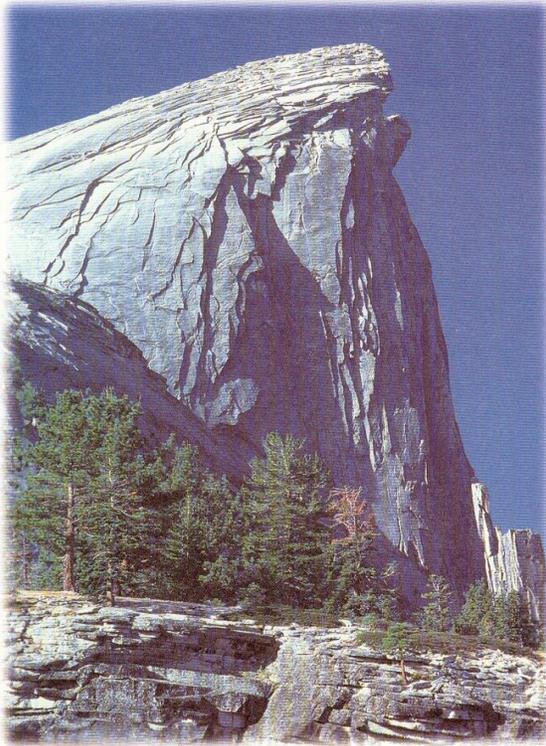
FROM THE PIT TO THE THRONE - EVERYDAY LIFE IN 2015 AND BEYOND

Family drama is nothing new. We read about it and perhaps, we have firsthand knowledge of Dysfunctional Family 101.

All family issues can be traced back to the garden for it was there that sin came to be. Genesis, chapter 3, notes the act of disobedience to God's instruction. That action influenced the thinking of future generations throughout history and is evident today.

Even when history notes the painful consequences of walking outside the will of God, people do it expecting a different outcome. Blinded by visions of fame and fortune, many struggle to obtain what only a few ever temporally gain.

Yet in the mist of what might seem to be a hopeless situation, the Sovereignty of God overcomes the evil to bring about His plan.



The Sovereignty of God is the biblical teaching that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (see Eph. 1:11). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted (see Isa. 46:11); nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always and without exception. In other words, God is not merely sovereign *de jure* (in principle), but sovereign *de facto* (in practice). (REF: Theopedia Encyclopedia of Biblical Theology)

- Jacob's love for Rachel flowed over to their firstborn son Joseph (Genesis 3:4) and wounded the thinking of all his sons. Sibling rivalry with embedded jealousy describes the relationship between Joseph and his brothers. Jacob's favoritism fostered Joseph's youthful pride and his brothers' envy and hatred.

Let us look at a quick overview of Jacob's family history.

- ✓ Jacob's grandfather was Abraham, known for his faith in God. The scriptures note that God established a covenant and promises Abraham land and a large family spanning many generations. But Abraham listened to his wife and went in unto Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian handmaid. Hagar bares him a son – Ishmael and Abraham was 86. When Abraham was 100 when Sarah bares a son whose name was Isaac. Sarah wants Hagar and her son gone. They are casted out.
- ✓ Jacobs's parents, Isaac and Rekekah had twin sons, Esau, the first-born and Jacob. Isaac loved Esau because he did eat of his venison and Rebekah loved Jacob. Genesis 25:22-23 now before the twins were born, they struggled in the womb. Rebekah was told the elder shall serve the younger. Years later Rebekah set up a plan to deceive Isaac so he would bless Jacob vs. Esau.
- ✓ Esau, Jacobs's twin brother was a skilled hunter. But he did not care about God's law concerning marrying foreign women. Esau brought disappointment and shame to his parents. Esau disrespected his birthright for he did not understand the blessing that Isaac was to pass onto him and that was the promises of God.
- ✓ What we see is a dysfunctional (not acting as expected) family that spans generations. The same as we see today.
- ✓ Each generation tried to input their ideas into the master plan without consulting God for directions.
- ✓ Each generation, tried to work out situations in their way and each decision pushed them further away from the intimately of being with the Lord.
- ✓ We know that, we will have struggles, spiritual warfare with Satan, but we bring on needless pain when we make decision on our own. We must wait on God and trust that the Sovereignty of God overcomes the evil to bring about His plan that never fails. We are blessed when we wait on God.

More next time. His stewards, Karen Cheathem

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