

March 6/7, 2004

Study Questions
Fear or Faith (Part 2): A Study in the Life of Joseph
From Pit to Power
Genesis 41:1-57
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. A. W. Tozer once stated: "It is doubtful that God can use a person greatly until he has hurt him deeply." Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?
2. Are you more surrendered to God in times of adversity or times of ease? Why?
3. Is God's primary desire for us our happiness or holiness? Are trials necessary for our holiness? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Review the circumstances of the first 30 years of Joseph's life.

As a group list 5 adjectives that describe the first 30 years of Joseph's life.

2. Read Genesis 41:1-57.
3. In 41:32 the reader is told that the repetition of dreams confirms God's sovereignty in determining and bringing to pass these circumstances. This is a subtle way of informing the reader the other "pairs" are the same. Joseph had two dreams. Joseph interpreted two dreams in prison. Now Pharaoh has two dreams that are repeated twice in the text.

One of the key lessons in these chapters of Genesis is the realization that God is in control and He has a plan and purpose, even when we can't see it and life makes no sense to us. How does this help us face the trials of life?

4. Compare I Peter 5:6 with Joseph's life. Is the focus of the verse our exaltation or humility? Why must one precede the other?

What is our part and what is God's part?

5. What does the naming of Joseph's sons tell us about his character during his first 7 years in power?

Which do you believe poses a greater risk of drifting away from God, success or failure? Why?

Application

1. List 3 specific things the story of Joseph teaches us that can help us face the trials of life.
2. In the circumstances of life, what is God's part and what is our part?
3. What should we pray for when we or others endure trials? Pray that for one another in the group.