

# EMBRACE THE JOURNEY

OUR LAST SERIES “ LEAN INTO THE DIP” INSPIRED ME. IT MADE ME REFLECT ON MY LIFE SINCE I STARTED WALKING WITH JESUS. ALL THE TRIALS,...THE BREAKDOWNS AND THE BREAKTHROUGHS, THE VICTORIES WON AND THE BATTLES LOST. THERE IS A COMMON OCCURANCE THAT HAPPENED CONTINUOUSLY THROUGH ALL OF IT

## CHANGE

I CHANGED, PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS CHANGED....LEFT TO MY OWN DEVICES, I HATE CHANGE. IT'S SCARY AND UNKNOWN, MANY TIMES THERE IS NO HANDBOOK TO READ WITH THE “MAGIC ANSWER” TO FIX YOU OR IT INSTANTLY. WE LIVE IN A GENERATION WHERE WE CAN HAVE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, RIGHT NOW. UNFORTUNATELY OR FORTUNATELY, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, GOD DOES MOST OF HIS WORK IN US IN “CROCK POT” MODE. I SAY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR LIKE ME..... PROBLEM? I WANT TO PRAY REAL QUICK AND EXPECT MY GOD TO DELIVER ME INSTANTLY OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE PROMISE LAND.

AFTER ALL, I AM HIS BELOVED. FORTUNATELY FOR US AND EVERYONE ELSE IN THE BIBLE, GOD OPERATES THE WAY A PERFECT PARENT WOULD, HE DOESN'T JUST TELL US HOW TO LIVE...HE SHOWS US HOW TO LIVE, THROUGH THE LIFE OF JESUS AND THE INSPIRATION OF HIS WORD.

TODAY I WANT TO LOOK AT A FEW PEOPLE WHO WALKED WITH GOD. SOME OBEYED, SOME DIDN'T. GOD'S WILL WAS DONE EITHER WAY. SOME DIED IN THE DESERT, SOME ATE OF THE MILK AND HONEY AND REAPED A HARVEST. I BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE AREAS IN OUR LIVES WHERE WE INHABIT THE PROMISED LAND. I ALSO BELIEVE THERE ARE AREAS IN OUR LIVES WHERE WE ARE JUST WANDERING AROUND IN THE DESERT. (TRUSTING GOD, THEN NOT TRUSTING GOD). MY PURPOSE FOR THIS MESSAGE TODAY, IS TO OPEN OUR EYES TO THE MAGNIFICANT FACT THAT OUR DESTINATION IS SURE, SO WHY NOT EMBRACE THE JOURNEY? I MEAN ALL OF IT

LET'S LOOK AT THE ISREALITES FIRST SINCE THEY WERE A BIG PART OF THE LAST SERIES. NOW, THE EXODUS OUT OF EGYPT CAN BE COMPARED TO OUR SALVTION. YOU SAID YES TO JESUS, GOD BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THAT OLD LIFE, AND HAS BLESSED YOU WITH A NEW, ETERNAL LIFE. NOW, LIKE I SAID BEFORE, GOD IS A PERFECT PARENT. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW SPOILED AND ARROGANT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IF GOD REMOVED THEM FROM EGYPT, AND PLACED THEM IN THE PROMISED LAND WITH NO PARTICIPATION ON THEIR PART AT ALL.

Exodus 13:21-22 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup> Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US, I THINK WE FORGET THIS SOMETIMES. I KNOW THE ISREALITES DID. GOD PROVIDES FOR THEM AND THEY STILL COMPLAIN...SOUND FAMILIAR? ALSO WE COMPLAIN ABOUT HIS TIMING 11:59  
GETTING WHAT WE NEED IS WAY DIFFERENT THAN GETTING WHAT WE WANT

GOD SPEAKS TO MOSES ABOUT HIS FRUSTRATION WITH HIS PEOPLE

Exodus 32:9-14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. <sup>10</sup> Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

DAD'S PISSED, MOSES REMINDED HIM HIS PROMISE. WE GET TO DO THAT

WHAT I REALLY WANT YOU TO SEE HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DESERT. THE COMMANDMENTS WERE GIVEN IN THE DESERT, GOD'S PRECEPTS AND PLANS FOR A SOCIETY OF BELIEVERS WAS ESTABLISHED. GOD USED THIS TIME IN THE DESERT TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM AND GUIDE THEM. THIS IS A GOOD THING. HAD THEIR PERCEPTION BEEN THAT THIS WAS A BLESSED TIME OF CONSECRATION AND INTAMACY WITH GOD AND NOT A CURSE, THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN WAY DIFFERENT. ALL OF THEM WOULD HAVE ENTERED QUICKLY

INTO THE PROMISE. YOU SEE, THE DESERT IS WHERE WE GROW, THE DESERT IS WHERE WE GET TO KNOW OUR GOD INTIMATELY, THE DESERT IS MANDATORY ON THE JOURNEY. WHY? BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY IN THE PROMISE, WE FIND THOSE IN THE DESERT. IT IS NOT FUN BUT IT IS NECESSARY. IT IS ALSO UNAVOIDABLE SO EMBRACE IT. PRAISE GOD THROUGH THE DESERT, SOAK UP EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEARN THERE, BUILD YOUR FAITH BY TRUSTING HIM AND WATCHING HIM MOVE ON YOUR BEHALF. MANY OF US DON'T EVEN GIVE HIM THE CHANCE MOVE BEFORE WE THROW A GRENADE INTO OUR SITUATIONS. THEN WE GET TO START OVER...YAY !! NOT

NOW LET'S LOOK AT JOSEPH... HIS DAD IS JACOB, IS A HEAVY HITTER WITH GOD, SO MUCH SO THAT PEOPLE SAID "THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISSAC, AND JACOB" THE FAMILY IS AS DISFUNCTIONAL AS ANY OTHER FAMILY. JACOB FAVORS JOSEPH OVER HIS BROTHERS SO MUCH SO THAT HIS BROTHERS HATE HIS GUTS AND WANT TO KILL HIM. THEY SELL HIM INTO SLAVERY AFTER JOSEPH TELLS THEM ABOUT A DREAM HE HAD THAT HIS FAMILY AND EVERYONE ELSE WOULD BOW DOWN TO HIM. THE MIDIANITES SELL HIM TO POTIPHAR, THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD FOR THE PHARAOH.

JOSEPH LEARNS HOW TO RUN HIS HOUSEHOLD FLAWLESSLY, SO MUCH SO THAT POTIPHAR DOESN'T EVEN THINK TWICE ABOUT HIM. GOD BLESSED JOSEPH, THIS BLESSED POTIPHAR. POTIPHAR'S WIFE FALSLY ACCUSES JOSEPH OF RAPE AND HE'S THROWN INTO PRISON. HE COULD HAVE BEEN RESENTFUL OF HIS SITUATION AND SLEPT WITH HER BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE HAD IT COMING, BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO SIN AGAINST GOD. JOSEPH LEARNS HOW TO RUN A PRISON (BIGGER THAN THE HOUSE)

**Genesis 39:20-23** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.

ONE MIGHT THINK JOSEPH IS CURSED, IF YOU LOOK AT HIS LIFE , ITS KINDA SUCKED SO FAR. DEFINITELY CHALLENGING

IS IT A SET BACK? OR A SET UP?

GOD NOW HAS JOSEPH IN POSITION TO USE THE GIFT HE GAVE HIM

DREAMS/ GOD HAS GIVEN US ALL SPECIAL GIFTS TO BE USED WHEN NEEDED

Genesis 40:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

## The Cupbearer and the Baker

**40** Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, <sup>3</sup>and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. <sup>4</sup>The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

BASICALLY, JOSEPH INTERPRETS THEIR DREAMS, THE CUPBEARER LIVES AND THE BAKER DIES, THIS PAVES A WAY FOR JOSEPH TO MINISTER TO THE PHARAOH WHEN HE HAS DREAMS THAT TROUBLE HIM.

JOSEPH TELLS THE PHARAOH THERE WILL BE A HARVEST FOR SEVEN YEARS AND THEN SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE SO GET READY.

Genesis 41:37-40 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>37</sup>The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup>So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

<sup>39</sup>Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup>You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."

FROM THE PIT TO THE PALACE....NO SHORT CUTS... JOSEPH WAS EQUIPPED IN "THE DESERT" OR "IN THE DIP" ESSENTIAL FOR WHAT GOD HAD FOR HIM IN HIS "PROMISED LAND"

GOD DOES NOT JUST SAVE US TO BE SURVIVORS, HE SAVES US TO HIMSELF TO BE POSSESSERS OF THE BLESSING SO WE CAN BLESS OTHERS

JESUS TELLS US WE CAN EMBRACE THE JOURNEY, ALL OF IT

Matthew 6:25-34 New International Version (NIV)

## Do Not Worry

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life<sup>Ⓜ</sup>?

<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

WHAT JESUS IS TELLING US IS THIS, "LIFE HAPPENS" KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON GOD, THROUGH THE GOOD TIMES, THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES, IN THE DESERT, AND IN THE PROMISE.....STAY FOCUSED ON HIM

LETS LOOK AT PAUL THE APOSTLE

TOTAL NARCCISIST, CHRISTIAN HATER AND MURDERER, RELIGIOUS STREET CRED UP THE WAZZOO, ARROGANT, AND LOST

PAUL THINKS HES GOD'S AXE, BRINGING JUDGEMENT TO ALL WHO FOLLOWED JESUS, THEN HE MEETS JESUS ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

CHANGED FOREVER IN AN INSTANT, ONE TOUCH FROM JESUS

PAUL BEGINS HIS MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL AND BEGINS TO GET HIS LUNCH HANDED TO HIM OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN

YOU THINK HE EVER THOUGHT " WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?"

PAUL QUICKLY FIGURED OUT THAT THE GRACE OF GOD WAS ALL HE NEEDED TO SURVIVE

**Philippians 4:10-13 New International Version (NIV)**

### **Thanks for Their Gifts**

<sup>10</sup>I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup>I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.<sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

PAUL SAYS "I AM EMBRACING THE JOURNEY BECAUSE MY DESTINATION IS SECURE" "MAY THE LORD'S WILL BE DONE IN MY LIFE"

LET'S LOOK AT JUST ONE OF THE TIMES HE GOT ARRESTED AND HIS ATTITUDE IN THAT

PAUL AND SILAS WERE HEADED TO SYNAGUOG TO PRAY WHEN A SLAVE GIRL WITH A DEMONIC SPIRIT KEPT MOCKING THEM "THESE MEN ARE SERVANTS OF THE MOST HIGHGOD, WHO ARE TELLING YOU THE WAY TO BE SAVED" SHE DID THIS FOR MANY DAYS AS SHE FOLLOWED THEM. PAUL IS OVER IT AND COMMANDS THE SPIRIT TO COME OUT OF HER. HER OWNERS WERE PISSED BECAUSE SHE WAS THERE MONEY MAKER

**SIDE NOTE...THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT BENEFIT OFF OF YOUR BONDAGE AND THEY DO NOT WANT YOU TO BE SET FREE**

Acts 16:19-24 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>19</sup>When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup>They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup>by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

<sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup>When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

**NOT COOL, DOES PAUL GIVE UP? GET BITTER? GET ANGRY?**

Acts 16:25-30 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup>The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.<sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

<sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.<sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

**PAUL PRAISED GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS TRIAL**

**HE EMBRACED HIS HARDSHIPS BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERYTHING AND HIS DESTINATION WAS SECURE. THIS**

PERCEPTION ALLOWED HIM TO SURRENDER HIS WILL TO THE FATHER'S WHICH GAVE HIM THE FREEDOM TO WORSHIP

GOD DELIVERED AND PEOPLE GOT SAVED

LIKE THE ISREALITES, JOSEPH, AND PAUL, WE WILL BE CHALLENGED ON OUR JOURNEY. HOW WE OPERATE IN THE MIDST OF THESE CHALLENGES DICTATES WHETHER WE MOVE THROUGH THEM QUICKLY, OR IF WE CAMP THERE FOR 40 YEARS. REMEMBER, OBEDIENCE ALWAYS TRUMPS SACRIFICE. YOUR OUTLOOK DIRECTLY EFFECTS YOUR OUTCOME

REMEMBER THIS NEXT TIME YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE DESERT...

\*\*\*\*\*| would end here...you have covered alot

Ephesians 1:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus,<sup>(a)</sup> the faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he<sup>(b)</sup> predestined us for adoption to sonship<sup>(c)</sup> through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he<sup>(d)</sup> made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.



<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen,<sup>[e]</sup> having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

AMEN

- **Listen your outlook determines your outcome!**

PAUL

ACTS 28:30

ACTS 16:16-32

PSALM 18:1-

PHILLIPIANS 4

PSALM 19:7-9

1THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

PHILLIPAINS 1:6