

THE PRESENCE TEST

Good morning TCC we are in week four of our study on Joseph as we look at what it takes to bring our character to a place where it can support the destiny God has for each one of us.

Psalm 105:17-19 – Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. ¹⁸They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. ¹⁹Until the time came to fulfill his dreams...the LORD tested Joseph's character. (NLT)

This far we have looked at the prophetic test, the pride test and last week the pit test. Now today we look at the presence test...

Genesis 39:2, 6 – The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³When his master saw that **the Lord was with him** and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did,... ⁶So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. (NIV)

HIS PRESENCE IS RELIABLE

No matter what your position or station in life – God is with you!

Genesis 39:2 – The Lord was with Joseph... (NIV)

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 – I have worked much harder, been **in prison** more frequently, **been flogged** more severely, and been **exposed to death again and again**. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes** minus one. ²⁵Three times I was **beaten with rods**, once I was **pelted with stones**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been **in danger** from rivers, **in danger** from bandits, **in danger** from my fellow Jews, **in danger** from Gentiles; in danger in the city, **in danger** in the country, **in danger** at sea; and in **danger** from false believers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known **hunger and thirst** and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 4:17 – For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (KJV)

TCC: No matter where you are in life, when you know God is with you, it changes everything. His presence is reliable.

HIS PRESENCE IS DYNAMIC

Genesis 39:2 – The Lord was with Joseph **so that he prospered...** (NIV)

- Prosper = to be pushed forward

Genesis 39:20-23 – Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison...²¹ **But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.** ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who *were* in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything *that* was under *Joseph’s* authority, **because the LORD was with him;** and whatever he did, the **LORD made *it* prosper.** (NIV)

When the Lord is with you He pushes you forward... there will be visible results.

John 15:5- ...He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (NKJV)

Genesis 41:37- This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, **“Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?”** (ESV)

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HIS PRESENCE

Genesis 41:15... “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, **“It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.** (ESV)

Zechariah 4:6 – “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. (NIV)

God’s presence is reliable...

God’s presence is dynamic....

There is no substitute for the presence of God