

**"The Walk of Faith"**

**Part 16**

**11:1-40**

**Introduction:** Tonight as we return to our study of Hebrews 11 we are again stepping into the examples from the Old Testament which the writer is pointing as an encouragement for his readers. The book of Hebrews has been referred to by some as the "Book of Encouragement". This could not be a more accurate statement. The words recorded within this letter were meant to encourage and strengthen the Hebrew believers who were struggling to move forward in their walk with Jesus Christ. They knew Jesus as their Savior but they had not entered into His rest because of unbelief. God had a rest for these Hebrews just as he had a rest for the Nation of Israel but Israel entered not in because of unbelief and the same danger existed for these Hebrew believers. They lacked faith for LIVING. They had SAVING faith but they had not come to the place where they had learned to trust God with their everyday lives. The persecution and the threats which they faced were being used by Satan to instill fear within their hearts. It is the desire of the writer of Hebrews to get these believers to trust God no matter what they were facing. The point is he desires to teach them to walk by faith. So in order to do this the writer has been using certain Old Testament saints as examples to show how they can trust God in every situation they would face.

Tonight in our study we have come to the example of Joseph.

I. **The Examples of Faith**

**Part 13**

A. **The Faith of Joseph**

There is much to be said concerning the life of Joseph. Let me show you some examples of the faithfulness of Joseph.

1. **He had faith in the prophecy which God had revealed to him.(Genesis 37:5-10)**
2. **He was faithful to Potiphar.(Genesis 39:7-10)**
3. **He had faith in God in the midst of his trials.(Psalm 105:17-19)**
4. **He was faithful in responsibility.(Genesis 39:20-23)**

5. He was a man of compassion.(Genesis 43:29-30)
6. He overcame evil with good.(Genesis 45:9-11)
7. He was obedient to his father.(Genesis 47:31)

These are all points about Joseph's life which are commendable but it was none of these which the Holy Spirit chose to use as an example to the Hebrew believers.

### Notice Hebrews 11:22

Here we see that the Holy Spirit points the Hebrews to the faith which Joseph exercised at the time of his death.

I want to take some time tonight to look at several points from this verse which will help us to see the FAITH and the FOCUS of Joseph.

- a. Joseph spent most of his life in Egyptian but he did not see himself as an Egyptian.

Joseph had access to a multitude of riches in Egypt.

### Genesis 41:38-44, 46

<sup>38</sup> *And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?*

<sup>39</sup> *And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:*

<sup>40</sup> **Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.**

<sup>41</sup> *And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.*

<sup>42</sup> *And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;*

<sup>43</sup> *And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.*

<sup>44</sup> **And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.**

<sup>46</sup> *And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.*

### Acts 7:9-10

<sup>9</sup> *And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,*

<sup>10</sup> *And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.*

Joseph was the second wealthiest man in Egypt but he never allowed himself to get rooted in and he never sees himself as an Egyptian.

When his father Jacob was dying he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim to Jacob to receive a blessing so that they would have a part in the covenant with God.

### **Genesis 48:1-2, 20**

*And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.*

<sup>2</sup> *And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.*

<sup>20</sup> *And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.*

This was what Joseph desired for his children. He did not desire that they have the riches of Egypt but he desired that each of them would have a part in the covenant which God had originally made with Abraham. To Joseph the riches of Egypt were nothing compared to the promises of God. Joseph was a man who never allowed the riches of Egypt to steal his focus away from the promises of God.

### **Application:**

There is absolutely nothing wrong with a believer having the wealth of this world. God has chosen to make some people wealthy and he has given them the wealth so that it would be used in a way that would honor Him.

### **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy:*

<sup>18</sup> *That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*

<sup>19</sup> *Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

But there is a danger which comes with riches.

### **Deuteronomy 6:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,*

<sup>11</sup> *And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;*

<sup>12</sup> *Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

**Psalm 62:10b**

*...if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.*

**Luke 12:15**

<sup>15</sup> *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

There are many other verses which confirm the danger of riches but from these we can get the idea. Riches can be very useful but they can also be very dangerous. Joseph was a man who was elevated in position but he never lost sight of the proper place of earthly riches and the high value of God's promises.

- b. **Joseph had faith in the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt.**

**Notice Hebrews 11:22**

Here we see that Joseph made mention of the "departing of the children of Israel". This is a reference to the Exodus which would take place about 400 years later when God would use Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan.

But this makes me ask the question, "How did Joseph know of the Exodus?"

This is amazing when we see how Joseph knew of the promise. It was told to Abram years before.

**Genesis 15:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;*

<sup>14</sup> *And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and **afterward shall they come out with great substance.***

This Truth was revealed to Abram who passed it down to Isaac who passed it down to Jacob who then passed it on to Joseph. Joseph believed this promise even though he could not see the fulfillment. He could not even see the affliction of Israel in Egypt for at the time of his death he was still acting as the Prime Minister. He was still favored greatly in Egypt. It would not be until a Pharaoh came on the scene who did not know Joseph then the affliction would begin.

**Exodus 1:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> *And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.*

<sup>8</sup> *Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.*

It would be under this king/Pharaoh that the affliction would come which would lead to Israel's departure under the leadership of Moses.

But the point is that Joseph believed this promise and in his mind's eye he was able to see the fulfillment and so he did not rest in Egypt and the riches there but he looked forward to the day when Israel would go back to Canaan. The bottom line here is that Joseph rested in the Word of God. Notice the words he spoke right before he died.

**Genesis 50:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*

c. **Joseph had faith in a resurrection.**

**Notice Hebrews 11:22**

Joseph not only made mention of the Exodus but when he gave a commandment concerning his bones he was looking ahead to a resurrection. Let me show you how this is recorded in Genesis 50.

**Genesis 50:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> *And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*

<sup>25</sup> *And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.*

Joseph did not desire a prominent burial in Egypt but he wanted to be buried with his fathers in Canaan. If there was no resurrection then why would it matter? Joseph believed in a resurrection and so to him it was important where he was buried because he desired to be resurrected in the land of promise. Notice the words of Spurgeon concerning Joseph's command about his bones.

*"A sure proof that he believed they would come out of Egypt. He would not be buried among the Pharaohs, though a prominent place would have been assigned to him there; but he would have his bones lie with those of his ancestors, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. He wished his unburied body to share with the people of God in their captivity and their return. He was so certain that they would come out of the captivity that he postpones his burial until that glad event, and so makes what would have been but a natural wish a means of expressing a holy and gracious confidence in the divine promise."*

**Conclusion:**

Joseph had no Bible to read. He had only his father as an example to look to and yet his faith in the promises of God was rock solid. What a reminder this was to the Hebrews. They part of the New Testament and all of the Old Testament. They had the Promises of Jesus Christ and they had the proof of the resurrection. When you place all of that beside the Patriarchs we must conclude they had no excuse NOT to walk by faith. Now if these Hebrews had no excuse then what about us? We have the complete Word of God. We have all the examples of the people of faith which are recorded in Scripture. We have absolutely no excuse for not trusting in God for everything we face.