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Genesis 45:3-5

3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

1 Samuel 4





**Never Thought Things
Would Turn Out The Way
They Did**

A Fundamental Question

Matthew 16:13-15

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

A Fundamental Principle

Matthew 16:16-19

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

***Prevailing
Or Being
Prevailed Upon***

I. Depends On Your Faith's Foundation

A. It must be Jesus

1 Corinthians 3:11

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:19

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

I. Depends On Your Faith's Foundation

B. It cannot be man's thinking

Mark 7:13

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Matthew 15:9

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

I. Depends On Your Faith's Foundation

C. Action must be taken

2 Timothy 3:8-9

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

II. Depends On Your Sanctification

A. It is the will of God

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

II. Depends On Your Sanctification

B. A call to separation

Ephesians 5:3-7

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

II. Depends On Your Sanctification

C. A personal responsibility

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

A. The danger of ignorance

1. Of the adversary

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

A. The danger of ignorance - continued

2. Of the reality of spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:11-13

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

A. The danger of ignorance - continued

3. Of the rigor of the battle

Proverbs 24:10

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

B. The danger of arrogance

1. Leaves you open to the enemy

Luke 22:31

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

B. The danger of arrogance - continued

2. Leaves you open to damage

Proverbs 6:27

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

3. Leaves you open to defeat

Leviticus 26:20

And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

C. The power of God essential

1. What is needed most

Psalm 18:32

It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

2. Where needed most

Ephesians 3:16

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

III. Depends Where Your Strength Comes From

C. The power of God essential - continued

3. When needed most

Isaiah 40:29

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

*Are You
Prevailing?*