

## The Impact of God's Grace

**Potiphar:** Captain of Pharaoh's guard; very high stress job requiring a lot of time and energy; pleased to find someone of Joseph's caliber to handle his affairs. Potiphar was God conscious - open to spiritual issues - able to see that God was behind Joseph's success. Joseph's humility and the grace blessings that resulted provided visible evidence of God's presence and impacted the nation of Egypt for hundreds of years.

### Study Outline: Gen 39:1-6

I.	Blessings of God's Grace	Promotion and Prosperity
II.	Evidence of God's Grace	Success that is Seen
III.	Impact of God's Grace	Credibility inspiring Confidence

### I. Blessings of God's Grace - Promotion & Prosperity

Vs 2 Lord with Joseph - caused him to prosper **tsalach** - hiphil- causative action

- The Lord caused Joseph to prosper and be promoted - because of his humility
- Success & prosperity come from the Lord by grace, not by human works

### Prosperity / Promotion - Lk 14:11; 2Cor 10:17-18; Jms 4:6, 10; 1Pt 5:5-6

Luk14:11 for he who exalts himself will be humbled; he who humbles himself will be exalted

**Humility – dominated by NM in Christ belief/behavior system** - submission to the authority of God; accepting the truth that He has the right to control our lives/circumstances; willingness to be instructed about these truths; willing to enter into God's transforming our hearts; abandon our OM BB & embrace NM BB

- Humble recognizes need for salvation – accepts Christ as Savior
- Humble recognizes need for renewal/mind – commits to inhale/exhale of WG
- Humble grows in grace – increases in knowledge & application
- Authority - Surrender to God; trusting God's judgment; promoting God and trusting God to promote you; delegated authority.

**Agenda** - contentment with will of God; looking for good in what God has allowed Humble is promoted / blessed by God – only true system of prosperity

**Arrogance – dominated by OM belief/behavior system** – rejection of the authority of God; demand that you have the right to control your own life and insist that God cooperate with your agenda; certainty that your beliefs are valid, that others must agree with you and mount an attack on any who do not agree; rejection of need for salvation; rejection of need for renewal by GW; my resources are mine to spend on my pleasures

- Arrogant are committed to the illusion of self reliance – human genius & power
- Arrogant hates weakness especially in themselves – denial at all costs
- Authority - running own life; own judgment; promote self rather than God

**Agenda** - demanding own agenda; anger / self-pity about life; blaming God / others Arrogant are humbled by God – not ready for promotion

1. Joseph willingly submitted to what God had allowed in His life.
2. Joseph surrendered himself to the authority and will of God even when God allowed him to be a slave in Egypt – in spite of sense of unfairness

3. Joseph's loyalty to the Lord - be the best servant he could be - model employee
4. Joseph wanted others to see that his success was because of the Lord - not him.
5. Joseph rejected the temptation to use unfairness as a justification to quit on God.
6. Joseph refused to allow his pain to justify self-pity, anger, worry – MAS
7. Arrogant bel uses pain to justify rejecting God's authority & sin – addiction
8. Joseph waited on God to reveal the good purpose of his situation.

## **II. Evidence of God's Grace - Success that is Visible**

Vs 3 - Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph - success in all he did

**Blessing can be visible (success) or invisible (capacity: fruits of GHS – love, joy, etc)**

1. Joseph's humility put him in a position for God to visibly bless him - capacity.
2. Joseph had the capacity to use his success properly for God's benefit not self
3. His humility stood out in contrast to other slaves - incredible attitude

**No anger, bitterness, self pity, laziness, rebellion - Initiative, obedience, cooperation**

4. God gave him success that stood out in contrast to those around him.
5. His attitude and results were so evident that Potiphar saw that God was with him.

**Note: His success was the result of God's action not the fruit of his own hard work**

6. 1Pt 3:1-6 - humility and attitude of the wife - evidence of the reality of Christ
7. 2Cor 3:2-3 - letter from Christ manifested and read by all men.
8. Jms 1:22-25 - hearers and doers of the word - blessed in all you do.

## **III. Impact of God's Grace - Credibility inspiring Confidence**

Vs 4-6 - Potiphar entrusted and delegated everything to Joseph - God blessed Potiphar; He developed great confidence and dependence on Joseph's God.

**Blessing by association – God blesses those associated with mature, humble believers**

1. Joseph understood that wherever God sent him, he represented God to the world.
2. His attitude and success created credibility for the presence of God in his life.
3. Potiphar was so convinced of God's reality that he entrusted all to Joseph's care.

### **Summary Principles**

1. Humbling ourselves / Lord creates capacity for contentment in any circumstance
2. Humility / Contentment enable God to prosper and promote us for His glory.
3. God's blessing in our lives becomes evidence of God's love for us to those who observe our lives - angels Eph 3:10; men - 1Pt 3:15
4. Humility / contentment under great adversity are a witness of the Lord's presence.
5. God is able to trust us with success when we desire it for His glory not our own.

**Success in circumstances; marriage; family; career; peace; joy; contentment.**

6. Success as a blessing of grace is God's plan for our benefit and for His glory.
7. Fulfilling the plan of God for our lives has great impact on those around us.
8. Blessing by association - Potiphar; Pharaoh; Egypt; Jacob; brothers - mature believer becomes a great blessing to those who associate with them.
9. Joseph is a great example of a believer who continued to trust and obey the Lord under extreme adversity - changed the course of a nation