

## JOSEPH'S SOUL TRANSFORMATION (See Diagram)

### THE TENSION OF PERSPECTIVE

**OUR PERSPECTIVE:** Every trial is an enemy, to burden us

**GOD'S PERSPECTIVE:** Every trial is a friend, to transform us

1 Peter 1:6,9, NIV — “(6) *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials ... (9) for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*”

**OUR PERSPECTIVE:** Every trial avoided leads to comfort

**GOD'S PERSPECTIVE:** Every trial embraced leads to completeness

James 1:2-4, NIV — “(2) *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, (3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

**OUR PERSPECTIVE:** Our life is a series of ups and downs, leading to ongoing hindrance.

**GOD'S PERSPECTIVE:** Our life is a series of steps, leading to ongoing promotion.

2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV — “*But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

### SOLUTION: CHANGE (“REFRAME”) OUR PERSPECTIVE

2 Corinthians 5:16, NIV — “*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ [and His activity in our lives] in this way, we do so no longer.”*

### REFRAMING JOSEPH'S TRIALS (See Diagrams)

- Genesis 45:5,7-8, NIV – (5) *And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ... (7) But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. (8) “*So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.”**
- Genesis 50:20, NIV – (20) *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*
- The greater the trial/test, the greater the purpose
- The greater the purpose, the greater the character issue needed
- The greater the character issue, the greater the potential promotion
- The only way to not grow, is to not learn from our trials

## SOUL TRANSFORMATION

### Part 3 – Embracing Transformation

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### REVIEW

#### 1. The Salvation Of Our Souls

1 Peter 1:6,9, NIV – “(6) *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials ... (9) for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*”

- Challenge:** All kinds of trials
- Response:** Rejoice!
- Focus:** Our goal – the salvation of our souls
- God's Perspective:** Trials are God's tool for transformation
- Maturity:** Choosing to cooperate with every trial, motivated by a right understanding of their purpose.

#### 2. Needs-Driven Or Spirit-Led

Romans 8:13, NIV – “*For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*”

- Trials are used by God to reveal our needs-driven tendencies, so that we can learn how to meet them by God's Spirit instead.

#### 3. Entering Soul-Rest

Matthew 11:28-30, NIV – “(28) *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*”*

- Soul-rest is attained when we stop struggling to fulfill our needs, and instead allow God to fulfill them in His way.

### BUY THE TRUTH

Proverbs 23:23, NIV – “*Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.”*

- The currency of the kingdom is simply “agreement”:
  - With God's Word AND With God's ways
- When truth is fully embraced, we receive:
  - Understanding (insight into the truth)
  - Discipline (protection by the truth)
  - Wisdom (application of the truth)