

Great Stories of the Bible – Learning to Plant Your Life by God’s stream of Living Water
The Life of Joseph Part 3: Choosing to Walk with God

Psalm 1:1-3 (Amplified Version)

- 1 Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], **Walk**
Nor stand in the path of sinners, **Stand**
nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers (ridiculers). **Sit**
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night. **Walks with God**
Stands in God’s Truth
Sits with Godly Company
- 3 **And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; Its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].** **A Planted Life**

An overview of Joseph's life

God uses life circumstances and His Holy Spirit guided training in our lives to develop, discipline and disciple us.

1. God provided, even in the midst of a troubled childhood. (Genesis 37:1-11) *Developing/Discipline*
2. God's Presence when Trafficked and Enslaved (Genesis 37:12-36) *Discipleship – Tests and Trials*
3. Success in Potiphar's House (Genesis 39:1-6) *Discipleship – Little Things*
4. False Accusation and Imprisonment (Genesis 39:7-20) *Discipleship – The Grind*
5. 2 years in Prison – but with God's Favor (Genesis 39:21-23) *Discipleship – The Waiting*
6. Interpreting Pharaoh's Dreams (Genesis 41:1-36) *Discipleship – Bigger Things*
7. Preparation for the Famine (Genesis 41:37-57) *Discipleship – Bigger Things*

The result of God’s development, discipline, and discipleship is that we get to see Joseph’s choice to:

- **walk with God?**
- **waffle with God?**
- **walk away from God?**

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jonah, Joshua, Job, David had ... and You and I have the same choice.

1. **Job 42:1-6 (NIV) Job Responds to the Lord - “I heard of you with my ears, ... now I have seen you with my eyes.”**
¹Then Job replied to the Lord:
²“I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
⁴“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’
⁵My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
⁶Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”
2. **Walking with God demands patience, endurance, and persistence (GRIT) as you pursue Him.**
 - a. That is why we are preaching/teaching you to walk with God, not just come to church.
 - b. That is why we are discipling you to walk with God, not just listen on Sundays.
 - c. That is why our deep heart of love for you: to help you hear the hard truths that sometimes you don’t want to hear.

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3. Life and God develop us in seasons of life

Parenting/Discipleship

- a. The Discipline Season *0-5 Years (Moral Installation) God’s Leader*
 - i. Yes/no; Right/Wrong; Truth/Lies
- b. The Development Season *6-10 Years (Practice Field) God’s Trainer*
 - i. The Grinding Season
 - ii. The Dry Season
 - iii. The Waiting Season
- c. The Tests and Trials Season *10-13 Years (Game Field) God’s Coach*
- d. The All Everything Season (Immaturity/Maturity) *13+ Years (Life) Friend of God and Theirs*
 - i. The Acquiring Wisdom Season
 - ii. The Child to Adult Physical Growing Up Season
 - iii. The Learning to “Ride the Waves of Relationships” Season
 - iv. The Spiritual Identity and Spiritual Warfare Season
- e. **What Season of life are you in right now?**

4. Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) God uses our development to bless us ... and to bless and benefit others.

¹The Lord had said to Abram,
“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.
²“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

The result of God’s development, discipline, and discipleship of us is that when we walk with God our eternity changes, our life benefits from it, and our life demonstrates it.

Pastor Steve’s Overview of Walking with God

Structure — Walking with God pro-actively

- **Prayerful Living** — We are daily going to God [Matthew 6:5-13; 1 John 5:13-15]
 - Praise, thanksgiving, confession, and intercession
 - Withdrawing for prayer to recharge and reset [Luke 5:16]
 - Seeks the heart of God and the will of God [Matthew 26:39]
 - Pray without ceasing [1 Thessalonians 5:17]
 - Learning to pray effectively [James 5:13-18]
- **Bible Centered Living** — We are learning and living in God’s Word
 - Scripture memory [Psalm 119:9-11]
 - Devotional life — Daily reading [2 Tim. 3:16-17]
- **New Life Living** — We are pro-active in how we live out morals
 - Accountability — Including confession [James 5:16]
 - Taking off the old and putting on the new [Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:1-10]
 - Outwardly wasting away, inwardly being renewed [2 Corinthians 4:16-18]
 - Spirit-filled and led life — [John 14:16]
- **Worshipful Living** — We show God’s worth and worthiness of praise
 - Gathers with the Body of Christ to worship [Hebrews 10:25]
 - Sees all that they do as worship to God [Romans 12:1, Colossians 3:17]
- **Purposeful Living** — We live to bring God joy, which is to do His will
 - Being others-centered [James 2:14-18]
 - “Love your neighbor as yourself” [Mark 5:29-31]
 - Evangelism [Matthew 28:18-20]
 - Serving in and outside of the Church [1 Peter 4:10-11]
 - Generosity in Time, Treasures, and Talent [Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Timothy 6:17-19]