

When Joseph Was Tempted

“...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” – Genesis 39:9

- A young man’s faithfulness to God
- Betrayed by his own brothers, sold as a slave
- He didn’t become “sour” on life; he trusted in God
- Potiphar’s wife “cast her eyes upon Joseph” to seduce him; he resisted her

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Joseph showed a strength the world doesn’t understand, nor desires.

- such fortitude is mocked by the wicked: 1 Peter 4:4

Note four factors which contributed to Joseph’s strength from Genesis 39:7-18

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1. Joseph remembered the trust placed in him by others.

“Behold, my master knoweth not what is with me in the house, and he hath put all that he hath into my hand” (v. 8)

- recall other’s confidence in him to do right – i.e., parents, spouse, friend, teacher, employer, etc.
- others are affected by our actions. Matt.5:10; John 15:5-6; 2 Peter 2:2

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2. Joseph’s determination to please God

- disobeying God’s word = “great wickedness and sin”: Genesis 26:10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4

- knowledge of scripture is valuable when Satan entices to sin: Psalms 119:11; Matthew 4:1-11

- what could impress us more to study our Bible?

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But there’s a difference between knowledge & faith.

- Faith (“trust”) is based on what we learn from God: Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6
- Many may “know” a thing wrong but lack faith to resist.
- Joseph’s faith was the reason he didn’t yield to temptation: 1 John 5:3-4; Hebrews 11:1, 24-25; 10:39; 1 Pet. 1:5-9

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3. Joseph was careful of the environment he put himself in.

“And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie with her, or to be with her” (verse 10).

- Joseph had the good judgment to recognize the danger in placing himself in a compromising situation

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- Faithfulness is not only a matter of the strength of my will to refuse evil, but also the soundness of my judgment to avoid the confrontation altogether:
Romans 13:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

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4. Joseph ran scared from sin – he “fled, and got him out” (vs. 12)
 - The nature of this temptation, knowing the power of the sexual appetite, left only one recourse – RUN!
Proverbs 23:1-2
1 Corinthians 6:18
1 Timothy 6:9-11
2 Timothy 2:22