



INTRODUCTION: Joseph was a teen, at the age that modern teens get ready to graduate high school. His father was a con-artist by nature. His uncle Laban was an even bigger con artist than his dad. Then, as a teenager, Joseph's mother died. What a traumatic life? On top of it all, he had to grow up with a group of wicked, ungodly brothers.

The theme of Joseph's life is twofold: Joseph practiced the presence of God and God prospered Joseph (Genesis 39:2, 21).

I. EXPRESS YOUR GOD-GIVEN DIFFERENCE (GENESIS 37:1-4)

The multicolored coat he wore was a mark of distinction. It represented the nobility of Joseph. God has made us a kingdom of priests. We are a chosen generation, a peculiar people. The world resents our difference and our nobility, and it tries to squeeze us into its mold

Romans 12:1-2, "1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

II. EXPLORE YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAMS (GENESIS 37:5-8)

Romans 12:1-2 gives us a formula to know God's will:

Presentation + Transformation = Realization

A. PRESENTATION (ROMANS 12:1)

When you present yourself to God it is then and only then that God is able to transform you.

B. TRANSFORMATION (ROMANS 12:2)

The word **transform** is where we get the word **metamorphosis** from. It means a change of form. What it literally means is when that which is on the inside comes to the surface.

On the mount of transfiguration Jesus was transfigured (same meaning as metamorphosis). What was his inner nature? Glory.

What is the inner nature of a child of God? Jesus. Christ lives in you and he is your inner nature.

C. REALIZATION (ROMANS 12:2)

God didn't give Joseph a roadmap; he gave him a dream.

Jeremiah 29:8, "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed."

God's not interested in your dreams. He wants to give you His instead!

Joel 2:28, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:"

How can I tell if my dream is a God given dream? Think about it and pray over it. When Mary had a vision about the coming Savior, the Bible tells us that she pondered all of it in her heart.

Proverbs 4:18, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

III. ENDURE YOUR GOD-GIVEN DIFFICULTIES (37:8-36; 39:1-23)

In chapters 37 and 39 you find a man scorned by his brothers, thrown into a pit, sold as a slave, falsely accused, and languishing in prison. Was God not in control? (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28)

IV. ENLIST YOUR GOD-GIVEN DYNAMIC (GENESIS 39:3, 21, 23)

Acts 7:9, "And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,"

Of all the attributes of Joseph that could be mentioned, the one that stood out was the presence of God.

CONCLUSION: One phrase sums up the life of Joseph, "but God was with him." In prison, God was with him. In the pit, God was with him. In slander, God was with him. In business God was with him. In pain, God was with him. In prosperity, God was with him. Even in death, God was with him.