

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

The Way to a New Life

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

INGREDIENTS
THAT WILL

redefine
YOUR LIFE

PART

4

dealing with betrayal, abuse,
heartache, depression:
SOME DAYS YOU DANCE
a preview





Real

INGREDIENTS

THAT WILL

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

We'VE BEEN STUDYING THE PATRIARCHS

of our faith to learn some of the eternal principles they discovered in their walk with God — principles that can help us allow God to redefine our own walk with Him. Like Abraham, we are believers. Like Isaac, we are called to be seed-sowers. And just like Jacob, we are determined to stay locked onto a life of obtaining the full, covenant blessing of God!

We come to the last stage in this particular journey — the story of Joseph. Joseph was the eleventh of Jacob's 12 sons, all of whom later became the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

redefine your life

P A R T

4



Joseph is one of my favorite heroes in the Bible. On the heels of the divine lessons of faith established in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Joseph was given a divine dream, and in Genesis 37, we have a record of how that dream and the subsequent events unfolded. Verse 5 says that when Joseph told his brothers about his dream and what God had shown him, they “hated him even more.”

Joseph's brothers were already jealous of their younger brother's favored position with their father. So when he told them about his dream that seemed to place him in a favored position with God, they hated Joseph even more. But Joseph pleaded with them to hear him out.

"So he said to them, 'Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose

Everyone was upset with Joseph. In fact, his brothers hated him so much that later they secretly sold him as a slave.

From this point on in Joseph's life, he began to demonstrate a principle of faith that will redefine our lives if we'll pay attention and learn from his example. The principle is this: Even in the face of challenges when times are tough or we're facing hardship, we are not to change our stance of faith. That is not the time

and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf'" (Genesis 37:6-7).

Really, it's no wonder that Joseph's older brothers wouldn't have liked hearing about that dream. Sometimes we can say things to people that offend and become the very reason they don't like us. That's what happened with Joseph and his brothers. Verse 8 says, "And his brothers said to him, 'Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words."

Then Joseph had *another* dream along the same line and decided to tell that dream to his brothers as well. (What we have here is a slow learner!) Joseph told his brothers and his father, "...Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me" (v. 9).

With this second telling of a dream, Joseph succeeded in offending not only his brothers, but also his entire family!

"...His father rebuked him and said to him, 'What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?' And his brothers envied him..." (v. 10-11).

to quit or back up. It is the time to press in and hold fast to what God has said to us and to *refuse* to let go. If we'll do that, we will surely see God's word to us come to pass. That's exactly what Joseph's life demonstrates.

Joseph's tough times began soon after he related his dreams to his brothers. They first conspired to throw Joseph in a pit and leave him to die. But then Judah came up with an alternate idea: Why should we leave him to die when we could sell him and make some money? (v. 26-27). So that's what Joseph's brothers did. They found a wandering band of Ishmaelites and sold him into slavery. The Ishmaelites dragged Joseph across the desert and sold him again into slavery, no doubt for a healthy profit, to a noble and wealthy

Egyptian man named Potiphar. Yet the Bible says that although Joseph was living in a foreign land as a slave, he prospered (Genesis 39:2-3).

This tells us that God has a different concept of prosperity than most people have. As a slave, Joseph wasn't being treated with dignity. On the contrary, he was viewed as a piece of property. Yet the Bible says that God was with Joseph and he *prospered* (Genesis 39:3).

We can learn another key ingredient for our faith here. We can't let the circumstances that surround us define who we are. We must hold fast to our understanding of who we are in Christ. We know that the blessing, abundance, and prosperity of God is a part of our spiritual inheritance, even when it looks

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like everything is going wrong in our lives. No matter what is going on around us, we must refuse to be moved from that stance of faith.

So Joseph just continued to walk in the blessing of God, and he continued to prosper. He was later thrown in jail, but he prospered there as well. God even used that terminology. Although Joseph was a prisoner in a foreign jail, he prospered there (v. 23).

Ultimately, when Joseph came out of that prison, he realized that God had orchestrated his life and given him those two dreams years earlier to define who he was. And through it all, Joseph never let go of how God had defined him. He believed that one day he would indeed be raised up and he would see the fulfillment of God's word to him.

Indeed, Joseph's family *would* one day bow down to him. But that wasn't what was important to Joseph. His desire was to please God and to be used by Him to bring His dream into existence in the earth: a nation of His people possessing their own land and blessed with His anointing, covering, and provision. To bring that purpose to pass, God had already worked in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now He was working in Joseph's life, still with the ultimate fulfillment of that divine dream in mind.

The Lord gave Joseph the divine revelation he needed to help the Pharaoh understand two dreams that troubled him. As a result, Joseph was delivered from prison and placed in a place of authority in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, to oversee seven years of great harvest.

Then the years of famine began, and the surrounding nations brought their

money to Joseph, seeking to sustain their societies by purchasing the grain he had stored for seven years. God gathered all of the wealth of those nations into Egypt, but it wasn't Egypt's money. It would later become the funds that would finance the Israelites' journey and possession of their own land so they could begin to be the nation God had envisioned. It was an amazing plan that only God could have devised. And in the end, His purposes did indeed come to pass!

How does this relate to us today? God has plans for *our* lives as well — infinitely bigger and better than any plan we've dreamed up on our own. He wants to raise us up in this society to be leaders. He wants to give us ideas and help us obtain the education needed to be equipped to fulfill His plan. He wants

us to walk in His favor and wisdom so He can lead us to the right places. He wants us to exert godly influence in our communities and in the world around us.

We can see the crucial times we're living in. God wants to use us mightily in this hour. But how will we be used? And how will His purposes come to pass through us? The same way His purposes came to pass in the generations of the patriarchs and in all the generations that followed. Only now we're not waiting for a future generation that will be called to finish this race. We *are* that generation.

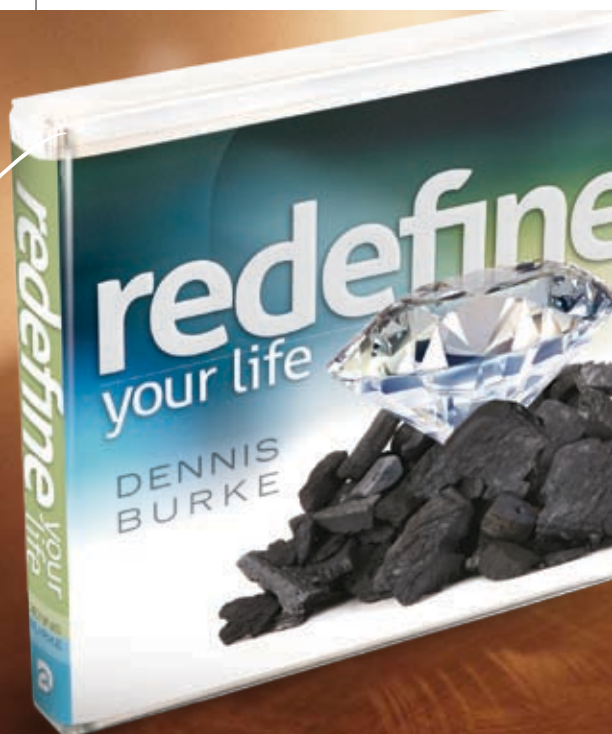
We have the faith of Abraham. We understand the sowing of seed, just as Isaac sowed. We've been receiving revelation about these eternal principles. We recognize that we must lock on to the blessing of God and walk in it. We understand that even when the dreams and desires He placed in us are being challenged and threatened, even when it looks like we could just throw in the towel and quit, *we are not to give up* on what God has planned for our lives.

I'm not letting anything — even

continued on back

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Christmas

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OME AYS

on Dance

FINDING
THE WAY TO
FREEDOM

KKI BURKE

What's wrong with my life?

Why am I so frustrated, angry, and insecure? Why don't I enjoy the peace, joy, and fulfillment the Bible promises? At the time I was ashamed to have such questions, but not anymore. Now I know that every believer who wants to enjoy the true freedom Jesus offers must ask them. All of us must first face the truth about our own captivity before we can get a revelation of the Truth that sets us free."

— VIKKI BURKE



continued from pg. 5

I am maintaining my
God-given dream, and
I refuse to give up on
what He has told me.”

my own stupid mistakes — stand in the way of experiencing the fulfillment of the plan God has for me!

Today we have all the ingredients of faith that took generations to be revealed, demonstrated, and understood. We have the benefit of learning from all those who have gone before us. The previous generations won't see the fulfillment of what God showed them until we finish *our* race, because we are the generation carrying the revelation shown to all who came before. This is why we study the Word. This is why we're people of prayer. We are the generation carrying the baton to the goal. We stand in that place of purpose where the generations before us could only peer ahead and long to stand. Now they wait for us to finish the race so they can also enter into their prize and reward.

So I'm here to tell you, friend — the race is on. You're in it. You have available all the capacities and qualities God has built into generations of His people — and that is what is redefining your life today. You're allowing God to redefine you based on the truths all these great leaders came to understand — truths that, in some cases, took them a lifetime to understand.

So don't cave in and give up on what God has told you about the blessings He has provided for you and the good plan He has for your life. Don't even let your own mistakes or compromises rob you of the divine purpose and abundant life God has raised you up to walk in.

Just lay down the sin that so easily besets you, whatever it is (Hebrews 12:1). Don't let Satan or your own past stumbles rob you of your part in fulfilling God's dream on this earth. Declare, "I'm *not* going to live a life of compromise. I am a person of faith. I sow seed. I lock on to the blessing of God. I am maintaining my God-given dream, and I refuse to give up on what He has told me. I'm going to finish my race, and I *will* see His plan come to pass in my life, all the way to the last great harvest!"

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references come from the *New King James Version*.

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dennis & vikki burke



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