

KINGDOM VISION

THE SINGLE-EYED BELIEVER

P A R T 1 0

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“And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (Habakkuk 2:2-3 KJV)

THE SINGLE-EYED BELIEVER

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye is single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” (Matthew 6:22KJV)

Life is highly unpredictable and full of ups and downs. The path to the fulfillment of our destiny is not without things that can easily derail our focus from our primary assignment or mission in life. The demands of life, peer pressure, stress and constant bombardment of side attractions are constants in life's equation and many have lost the battle of destiny fulfillment because of these. With God on our side, however, we shall always overcome and win the battles of life. I like how David summarized our daily struggles in Psalm 40:1-3 —

“I waited patiently for the LORD; And he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: Many shall see it, and fear, And shall trust in the LORD.” (Psalm 40:1-3)

David gave us the formula to refocus whenever we are under the constant pressure of life's demand — it is PATIENCE! He said, **“I WAITED PATIENTLY...”** Patience in the midst of life's struggles is like an anchor; each time we exercise patience, we are able to gather our wind and soar once again. The goal of the distractions of life is to bring us into an 'horrible pit' with 'miry clay,' and thus take our focus off our vision. It is like double jeopardy to be in an horrible pit that also has a clay bottom; you will find yourself sinking fast! With patience, however, you can get back on the rock and your focus can be reestablished with a new song in your mouth.

DISTRACTIONS: LIONS, BEARS & GOLIATHS

David is a master of focus; a closer look at his life's story will offer us priceless lessons on the nature of things that could pull us off the course of our destiny. Below is an excerpt from one of his encounters as recorded in **1 Samuel 17:34-36**,

“And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.” (1 Samuel 17:34-36)

Here, David was recounting what happened to him on the field—how he began fighting the battle for his focus in the secret; having won again and again with the lion and the bear, now he is able to teach others how to do it via his encounter with Goliath. Being a shepherd boy put in charge of a flock of sheep, David must have developed

the skill of focus and watchfulness as he tried to keep the sheep away from dangerous predators like lions and bears. "LIONS" are known to roar so loudly that they could be heard about five miles away, terrifying those who hear it. The roar of a lion helps it to establish its territory and communicate its power, yet, when Daniel was literally cast into the lion's den, he was not harmed. Daniel's secret is the same as David's — a laser-focus on their place in destiny and on the God of their journey. David also defeated a bear which could have taken away his focus. Bears are known for their strength, ferocity, nobility, playfulness and curiosity but they can be extremely dangerous. In the context of our discussion, therefore, we can consider them as distractions which come in a friendly form but which must be quickly identified for what it is and dealt with accordingly. The point is that if you cannot conquer your 'lion' and 'bear' in your secret place, you won't be able to take on a Goliath-like distraction in the open. However, with a boatload of courage and determination, David was able to stay focused.

Apostle Paul summarized all the 'lions', 'bears' and 'Goliath-like distractions' as 'temptations' and he encouraged us to remain stable and focused on our vision without allowing whatever is going on in our lives to become a distraction. He writes,

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)

Whatever is trying to take away your focus is a thing that's common to mankind; you are not singled out. The good news is that God is right there with you, so look for your way of escape and regain your focus for your vision.

LITTLE WEIGHTS

We looked at the life of Abraham last week by examining every weight that competed with his focus. These are things that can take our focus captive if we allow them. Hebrews 12:1-2 reads thus:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE OF FOCUS

Let's look at a few things about how Joseph remained focused despite the things that heavily competed for his focus. The purpose of studying these icons of faith is to establish a glossary of problems that do take our focus captive. Such a compilation can become a reference for us, after all, there is nothing new under heaven.

1. HIS AGE

“These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.” (Genesis 37:2 KJV)

When Providence chooses you, your age is inconsequential. Abraham was called when he was seventy-five years of age. There was no point of reference for Abraham at that time but he remained focused on his vision. Now, the God of heaven visited the house of Jacob and impressed upon a seventeen-year-old (Joseph) the future of many generations to come! While he also did not have many reference points to refer to, he did not lose focus. Rather, he embraced his future. It's surely no coincidence that David, like Joseph, also began his destiny-laden engagements from the age of seventeen! Your laser-focused attitude today might just be the foundation for a greater tomorrow, even for your yet unborn generation.

2. THE OPPOSITIONS HE FACED

“And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.” (Genesis 37:8 KJV)

Many have given up on their future because someone somewhere challenged the legitimacy of their vision; at the first instance of resistance, their vision melted away like butter in the sun. Joseph had a massive opposition within his own family. It is one thing for the outsider to hate you but when your flesh and blood are the ones waging ceaseless war, that changes the dynamics of things. Joseph and even more oppositions at every important phase of his destiny, yet, he did not lose his focus at all.

3. THE PIT

“and they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.” (Genesis 37:24 KJV)

From this aspect of Joseph's life, you will appreciate what David said in Psalm 40:2 — *“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”* Beloved, the truth is that many visions, dreams, and ambitions die in horrible waterless pits across the world. Water gives life; it makes things grow. One of the spiritual symbols of water is God's Word; when you get distracted from the Word of God, things die. Joseph didn't lose his focus but waited patiently in the pit by keeping his focus together for the next move of God. We should learn to do the same when in a similar season.

4. HIS DISPLACEMENT

“Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.” (Genesis 37:28, 36 KJV)

Joseph had his dream in the land of Canaan. He probably expected that the fulfillment of his destiny would also be in Canaan but he was sold to the Midian merchants and was later sold to Egypt. My brethren, if there was a good time to lose one's focus, that would have been the perfect time to do so. It would have been justifiable to complain and lose all hope. Many would have given up here and thrust focus out of the window, but not Joseph.

5. IN CONFINEMENT

“And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's

prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.” (Genesis 39:20 KJV)

At some point in Joseph's story, he probably came to believe that the house of Potiphar was the place of fulfillment for him because things were going well for him there. Yet, once again, he found himself in an uninvited trouble. What do you do when the trouble you are not looking for finds you? Joseph's answer is to hold on to your focus. Indeed, focus has the power to lift people even from an impossible situation. Nelson Mandela was in prison for a long time but he never lost his focus on the vision of liberating his people. Joseph never missed a beat; he became the warden's favorite even in confinement! When focus is all you got, then focus is all you need to do exploits.

6. IN THE PALACE

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;” (Genesis 41:41-42 KJV)

Even in the palace, Joseph did not allow the pleasure and comfort therein to derail him from his vision. If anyone should heave a sigh of relief and sink himself into maximum enjoyment in the palace, it was Joseph. However, Joseph's focus remained intact. He knew what God had said in his dream—how nations shall bow before him. Yes, his eleven brothers bowed to him, but much more, the whole nation of Egypt and the surrounding nations did as well. When you keep your focus, you are simply keeping your destiny intact.

The life of Joseph will be our main subject of study in subsequent chapters.

CALL TO ACTION

- Are you in a horrible pit right now?
- Have you lost your song?
- Are you winning the battle against your lion, bear, and Goliath?
- Do you think you are the only one being tempted to lose your focus?
- Are you laying the weights aside?

PONDER THIS: “THE ROARING LION AND A RANGING BEAR”
“As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; So is a wicked ruler over the poor people.” (Proverbs 28:15 KJV)

If you allow the roaring lion and ranging bear to take your focus off, they can cause a lot of havoc for your vision. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, pull me out of every horrible pit in the name of Jesus.
2. Lord, empower me to overcome every lion, bear and Goliath of distractions in the name of Jesus.

PS: Reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom in your area. God bless you as you do so.