

# Carry the Light

Gen. 39:1-4, 7-9, 20-21



Gen. 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

2 And **the LORD was with Joseph**, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And **his master saw that the LORD was with him**, and that **the LORD made** all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand. ...



7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

9 *There is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: **how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?** ...

20 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.

21 But **the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.



Our new theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.”

On January first, we looked the...

THE INTRINSIC POWER and THE ILLUMINATING PURPOSE  
of light in regard to the woman taken in adultery in Jn. 8.

A couple of weeks ago we began looking at Joseph,  
and how he “*carried the light*” into Egypt.

*Carrying the Light from the Pit to the Palace*

## I. THE INDIVIDUAL PLAN FORETOLD

- The Inclusive Picture
- The Individual Purpose
- The Inspirational Performance



## II. THE INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION FOR FAITHFULNESS

A. The Dedication of Parents

B. The Deception of Perception

- Trials of our faith are the challenging parts of our spiritual development.

C. The Development of Priorities

**Henry Ford**

**R. H. Macy**

**F. W. Woolworth**

**Walt Disney**

**Albert Einstein**

**Thomas Edison**

**Winston Churchill**

**Abraham Lincoln**

**Tom Landry**

<http://www.onlinecollege.org/2010/02/16/50-famously-successful-people-who-failed-at-first/>



### III. THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENCE OF FAILURE

#### A. The Reality of Failure

Failure = an act or instance of failing or proving unsuccessful; lack of success:

a person or thing that proves unsuccessful:

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/failure?s=t>



Deut. 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; **he will not fail thee**, nor forsake thee.

7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8 And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, **he will not fail thee**, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Lam. 3:22 *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because **his compassions fail not**.



1 Cor. 13:8 **Charity never faileth**: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Failure is a matter of perspective. Obviously, we see life from an earthly, temporal perspective, but God sees things from the heavenly, eternal perspective. A perfect example is the life of Job.

## B. The Reaction to Failure





When it comes to dealing with failure, Professor Covington groups students into one of four categories:

- **Success-oriented students** love learning for the sake of learning. They see failure as a way to improve, rather than a slight on their value as a human being.
- **Over-strivers** are the students Professor Covington calls “closet-achievers”. They are so afraid of failing that they avoid it at all costs, even if it means exerting themselves beyond what is reasonably expected.
- **Failure-avoiding students** don’t expect to succeed – they just want to avoid failing. In order to do so, they frequently make excuses, procrastinate or simply don’t participate.



- **Failure-accepting students** have given up trying to succeed altogether. Unsurprisingly, these are the most difficult students to motivate because they have internalized failure.

<http://www.sacap.edu.za/blog/counselling/the-psychology-of-failure/>



**What doesn't kill you,  
makes you stronger**

[https://www.google.com/search?q=whatever+doesn't+kill+you+makes+you+stronger+lyrics&biw=1411&bih=827&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi766e7ruXRAhXpx1QKHwuZDAkQsAQlaA#imgrc=srOnMc\\_amaxGM%3A](https://www.google.com/search?q=whatever+doesn't+kill+you+makes+you+stronger+lyrics&biw=1411&bih=827&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi766e7ruXRAhXpx1QKHwuZDAkQsAQlaA#imgrc=srOnMc_amaxGM%3A)



Victor Frankl, a neurologist, psychiatrist, holocaust survivor and author of *Man's Search for Meaning*, wrote:

*“The way in which a man accepts his fate and all the suffering it entails, the way in which he takes up his cross, gives him ample opportunity – even under the most difficult circumstances to add a deeper meaning to his life.”*

<http://www.thebestbrainpossible.com/what-doesnt-kill-you-makes-you-stronger/>

2 Cor. 4:8 We are troubled on every side, **yet not distressed**; we are perplexed, but **not in despair**;

9 Persecuted, but **not forsaken**; cast down, but **not destroyed**;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that **the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**



When something bad happens, you have three choices:

1. Let it define you.
2. Let it destroy you.
3. Let it strengthen you.

### C. The Remedy for Failure

Failure is a setback that is only a delay to accomplishing the objective.



Phil. 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, **forgetting those things which are behind**, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before,  
14 **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- Forget the past (“...forgetting those things which are behind..”)
- Forge ahead – cut your losses and move forward (“...reaching forth unto those things which are before...”)
- Focus upon the goal (“...press toward the mark...”)
- Fix upon the motivation (“...the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”)

The ultimate goal for every person should be the fulfillment of the will of God.



Rom. 12:1 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.**

2 Pet. 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

1 Thess. 4:3 For **this is the will of God**, *even your sanctification*, that ye should abstain from fornication:



1 Thess. 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for **this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

1 Pet. 2:15 For **so is the will of God**, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:





## Conclusion


Heb. 10:32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.





36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 **Now the just shall live by faith:** but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.