

Joseph: Forward by Faith

[Genesis 39](#)

As believers, we'll all falter occasionally in our faith. When that happens, how can we keep doubts to a minimum? The key is to remain focused on the Father so that we can move forward in His will for our life.

Consider the Old Testament hero Joseph, who trusted in God during all the harrowing events of his early years. Faith sustained him through betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment. Resting on his confidence in the heavenly Father, Joseph didn't allow his circumstances, environment, or the opinions of others to divert him from acting according to the Lord's will. Joseph believed that every situation of his life was by God's design.

Most people react to trials by complaining that the situation is unfair and undeserved. They are so focused on the misfortune of their circumstances that they miss opportunities to serve God.

Joseph chose a different approach. This young man who'd been sold into slavery by his brothers decided to do his work with excellence. His duties in Potiphar's house were probably menial, but he performed them as if working for God. This kind of commitment earned Joseph the attention and respect of his master, and the Hebrew slave was rewarded with greater responsibility. [Genesis 39:23](#) says, "And whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper."

[Genesis 39:23 \(NASB\)](#)

²³ "The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper."

As Joseph moved through one hardship after another, he stayed focused on the Lord, who had promised to raise him to a position of leadership ([Genesis 37:10](#)). He had a practical approach to the downward turn in his fortunes: He kept thinking about God and serving Him instead of dwelling on his trials.

[Genesis 37:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰ "He related *it* to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"