



New Faith Church
Rev. Dr. Andre Lewis, Senior Pastor

Bible Study Series Part I

PRINCIPLES FOR OVERCOMING REAL ISSUES OF LIFE

- I. **It turns out that what happens inside us is more important than what happens to us.**
 1. Remember that statement and let it take root in your spirit.
 2. That is the truth that the Apostle Paul wanted believers to understand when he wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:

- II. **What happens to us is not as important as how we respond to the events that take place in our lives.**
 - A. It is by responding in the proper ways that we are able to progress toward our dreams.
 1. God gives each of us dreams to strive for.
 2. Yet for a number of you those dreams have not yet been accomplished.
 3. You have encountered many obstacles and setbacks and now your dream seems distant and unreachable.
 4. Rather we are to fix our eyes on the end result, on the dream that God has given us.

 - B. Such was the attitude of Joseph.
 1. In Genesis 37 we read about Joseph and his brothers. Joseph, Isaac's youngest son had dreams that one day his family would bow down before him.
 2. His brothers were jealous of Joseph and did not think much of his dreams.
 3. Yes, that is how it looked in the natural. But Joseph did not let his troubles dictate his response.
 4. **He kept his eyes on what was still unseen.**

 - C. Maybe you have given up on your dream, but I'm here to tell you that God has not given up on your dream.
 1. You may be without hope or strength to pursue the dream that God has planted into your heart but the Bible tells us that, "*but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint,*" Isaiah 40:31.
 2. It was the patience and faithfulness that Joseph demonstrated that helped to bring him to the place where God could fulfill his dream.

3. Though trials, test and tribulations will come into our lives, Christ reminds us in John 16:33 that he has overcome the world.

III. Determine That Whatever Event or Issue You Are Facing Is A Test or Trial

- A. First, we have to recognize that what we are experiencing is a trial or test.
 1. Sometimes we do not see that the situation we are in calls for us to utilize our faith and the principles of God's word.
 2. When we fail to recognize that we are dealing with a test or trail we will be likely to make bad decisions the will make matters worse.
- B. For you to respond correctly and appropriately to all the difficulties you may face you should recognize that test and trails are coming into your life all the time and in all form and sizes.
 1. The trials could be dramatic or subtle, short or long lasting, slightly irritating or completely devastating.
 2. They may cause us to feel fear or uncertainty or hostility or frustration or impatience at times when things are not going the way we would like and/or people around us are not behaving the way we would like.

IV. Resolve That The Outcome of This Test or Trial will be for Your Good

- A. So if we can correctly perceive when we are experiencing a test or a trial then we will not be caught off guard; we will be in a position to employ all the resource that God has provided for us to deal with our challenges.
 1. Which then brings us to the second principle, that when we encounter a test or a trial, we start should rejoicing.
 2. God want us to become more like Christ. The Apostles James tells us in James 1:2, 3:
“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”
 1. James is telling us to do what does not come normally or easily.
 2. Our flesh does not want to rejoice.
 3. When we start rejoicing in the mist of our trial we unleash unseen spiritual forces in our behalf.
- B. Do you remember the story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20?
 1. A vast army was on its way to Jerusalem. So Jehoshaphat gathered the people together to pray for deliverance;
 2. And when the opposing army approached look what happen when they began to sing praises to God.
 3. The people of the kingdom of Judah did not know it, but they were utilizing spiritual principles such as Revelation 12:11:
 4. We are not following what we can see, hear and feel from the world's reality.
 5. Even though we may feel crushed or anxious we choice to rejoice because we are expecting something better to come in spite of our circumstances.