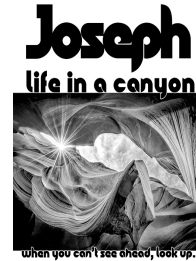


Remember:

- There will always be struggle in this life.
- It won't be painless
- It won't be quick
- His silence is not abandonment
- Trust in God
- Obey His commands



Sierra Community Church September 20, 2015
Dan Wilvers Part 1

Trusting God Despite Hardship

The story of Joseph is in the Bible to teach us to trust God to trump evil.

Genesis 37

1. The hidden consequences of sin.

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. Genesis 37:3

But his brothers hated Joseph vs.4
they hated him more than ever vs. 5
And they hated him all the more vs. 8

But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. Genesis 37:2b

He (Joseph) worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. Genesis 37:2

2. The hidden purposes of God

- *The dreams-*
- *The chance occurrences-*

What do we learn about the **hidden purposes of God?**

God's wise, redeeming love is completely compatible with terrible things happening in the lives of those he loves.

"So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe ... they took him and threw him into the cistern." Genesis 37:23

"Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us." Genesis 42:21

Do believe God is still working in both kinds of situations?

- Peter gets put into prison, everybody prays, and the angels come and open the prison door.
- John the Baptist gets put into prison, all of his disciples pray, and he's beheaded?

If you believe that, there are only two things you can do to me in this life.

One is you can just hurt me, but because I know God is working, I'm going to trust in him, and all you're going to do is make me a richer, deeper, better, wiser, ultimately happier person.

The worst thing you can do is kill me, and then you'll make me happier than before, because I have a God who turns all deaths into resurrections, literal as well as figurative.

I have a God who doesn't create evil, but He overrules it.

God works all things together for good to those who love God and are called according to His (hidden) purposes? Romans 8:28.

3. The hidden patterns of grace (God's undeserved goodness to you)

Any suffering that comes into your life, any disappointment, any trouble can really destroy you spiritually. It can turn you hard. It can turn you bitter.
What's the cure?

Look to Jesus:

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53

That means if right now, today, you're in a pit and you're crying out in neglect, "Why?" and you feel completely alone, you're not, because Christianity is the only faith that even claims God has suffered. That God has gone into that pit, that God is there in the dark beside you. God knows what it's like. God suffered with you. God suffered for you.

3 Take Away's:

- **Leave the outcomes to God**
- **Feelings of God's love and presence come and go**
- **Don't fear circumstances especially in your family**

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.
When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.
When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. Isaiah 43:2