

# Ten Principles of Integrity

## From the Life of Joseph

### God's Aim, Our Goal: Winners and Champions ~ Complete in Every Good Work and Well Pleasing to Him ~

As we begin to study the life of Joseph, we will find that God is at work through all of the trials and disappointments that Joseph faced. Joseph's trials and triumphs clearly reflect the overcoming power that God has made available to those who are firmly committed to holy, uncompromising lives. Such people refuse to reflect less than the best of God working in them, regardless of their situations or circumstances. They are the winners and champions of God. As you begin this study, lay hold of its principles. God wants to work in you to make you the kind of champion He can be well pleased with, and can use for His glory.

*(Hebrews 13:20-21 NKJV) "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, {21} make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

*(2 Corinthians 5:7-10 NKJV) "For we walk by faith, not by sight. {8} We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. {9} Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. {10} For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

### Joseph had a dream and his brothers hated him.

*(Genesis 37:2-11 NKJV) "This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. {3} Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. {4} But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. {5} Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. {6} So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: {7} "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." {8} And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. {9} Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." {10} So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" {11} And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind."*

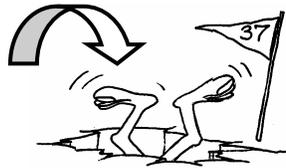
(Genesis 37:13, 18-20 NKJV) “And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” So he said to him, “Here I am.” {18} Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. Then they said to one another, “Look, this dreamer is coming! {20} Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!”

## First: A Look at Some of the Qualities of Weak Character

### Reuben: The Eldest Brother... and Leader

(Genesis 37:21-25 NKJV) “But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, “Let us not kill him.” {22} And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him”; that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father. {23} So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. {24} Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. {25} And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.”

Genesis 37:24



“into the pit”

(Genesis 37:29-30 NKJV) “Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. {30} And he returned to his brothers and said, “The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?””

He was operating out of:

1. Deception
2. Appeasement
3. Compromise
4. Fear of Man

#### Poor Character!

Reuben’s character failure would shadow him for the rest of his life.



Reuben

Reuben tried to manipulate and fool his brothers, so he could later come back and free Joseph. He failed.

- Integrity never worries about what people might say.
- Integrity never risks what is too precious to lose. Reuben lost his brother, his integrity, his self-respect, the respect of others, and his leadership position in the family.

Reuben was boxed in. He had nowhere to go. His weak character worked its way into his attempts to save his brother. He wove a web of deception, appeasement and compromise. Both he and Joseph were snared by it. Actions taken without integrity and wholeness bring consequences that are not easily undone.

## Now, A Look at the Qualities of Integrity

### Joseph: His Character took him from the Prison to the Palace. (Leading all the way!)

*(Genesis 39:2-3 NKJV) “The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful 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 he did to prosper in his hand.”*

*(Genesis 39:9, 12 NKJV) “There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” {12}... she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.”*

#### Joseph

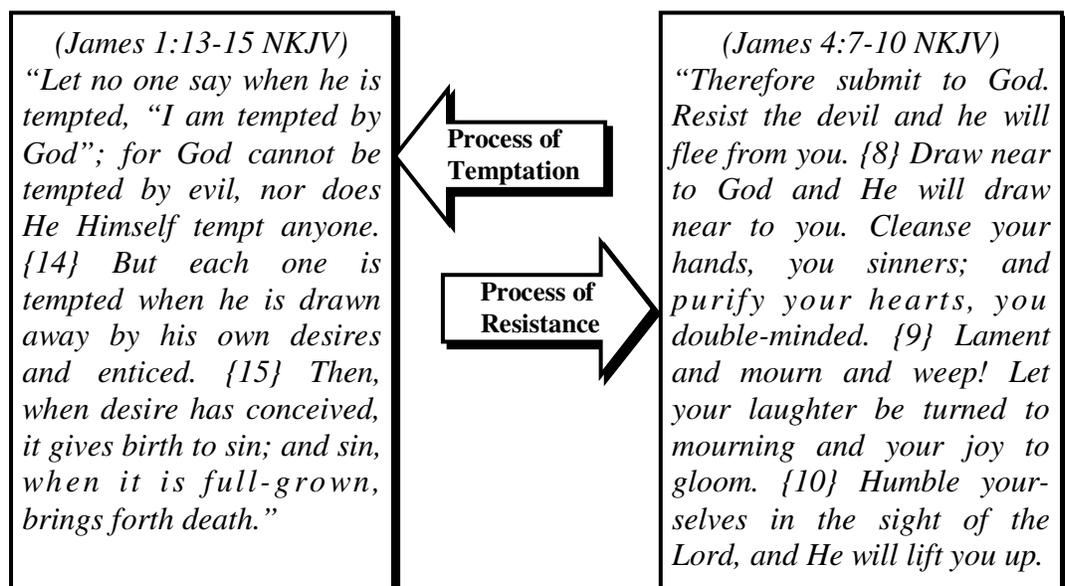
1. He lived and breathed integrity. When the woman’s advances came, his reaction was automatic.
2. He refused to even think about compromising with sin. He ran from it, and as he ran from the temptation, he drew near to God.
3. Notice the contrast between Joseph and Reuben. Reuben was basically a good man, but he lacked the strength of character.

*(Psalms 1:1-3 NKJV)*

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; {2} but his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. {3} He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.”*

Take special note of the urgency in Joseph to put distance between himself and the temptation.

### Two Opposing Forces – Two Very Different Processes



**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****1.****Doing the right thing may cost you.**

**It may bring you difficulties. It may seem to be a bigger price than your integrity is worth. That is never the case!**

**No Refunds!** If you spend your integrity you will find that it cannot be bought back. You will own what you have bought. There are no refunds!

**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****2.****Integrity is always worth more than the price you pay to keep it intact.****PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****3.****You will never know what God has waiting for you, unless you make integrity your constant companion on your journey through life.**

*(Genesis 39:16-20 NKJV) "So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. {17} Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; {18} so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside." {19} So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. {20} Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison."*

**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****4.****Disappointment is inevitable. Misery is optional.**

Disappointment can be an open gate to bitterness, self-pity, unforgiveness and worse. **It's your choice!**

**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****5.****Disappointment is a great opportunity for your next appointment – with God!**

Persevere in the gift God has given you... and step into the next opportunity the Lord opens up to you.

Life and all its circumstances will disappoint you. God will never disappoint you. Try not to disappoint Him. Stand tall. Do the right thing. God is still at work!

*(Genesis 39:21-23 NKJV) "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. {22} And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. {23} The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper."*

***"But the LORD was with Joseph"***

***"He gave him favor... whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper"***

No deception!  
No appeasement!  
No compromise!  
No fear of man!  
Just excellence of character!

See Proverbs 4.,  
Verses 14, 15, 18,  
26 and 27.

You have a  
choice. Which  
path will you  
walk?

**Things can change suddenly! God is a “Suddenly God.”****He will take you from the prison to the palace – suddenly!**

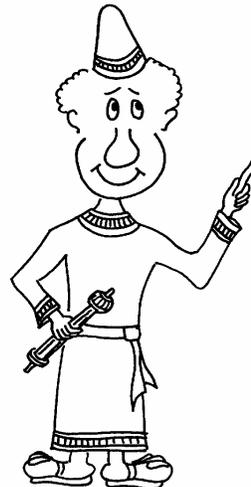
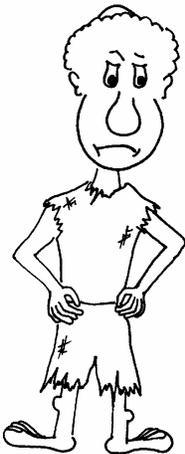
*Pharaoh had a dream, and God moves on the heart of Pharaoh’s chief butler, who had been with Joseph in prison. Two years have passed since the butler had been released and restored to Pharaoh’s service. Only now is Joseph remembered – two whole years later! The chief butler speaks to Pharaoh and Joseph is called from the prison to the palace!*

*(Genesis 41:25, 33 NKJV) “Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do... {33} And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. {33} Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.”*

Joseph not only reveals the dream and its interpretation to him, but he also tells Pharaoh how to prepare for the coming famine.

**God honored Joseph’s integrity. Promotion came from the Lord!**

*(Genesis 41:37-41 NKJV) “So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. {38} And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” {39} Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. {40} You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” {41} And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”*

**From the pit... to the prison... and suddenly... to the palace!****PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****6.****Integrity of heart is the path to the palace.**

Your willingness to do the right thing will move God to take you to the right place... a good place!

*(1 Chronicles 28:9b NKJV) “...serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts...”*

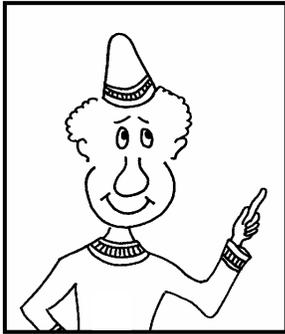
The key question: Will we do our best not to lose control over what we have control over – the integrity of our hearts. Or, will we surrender to the temptations, the cravings and the easy ways out? We may not always be in control of our circumstances, but we can choose what we willingly surrender our hearts to.

*(Isaiah 1:19 NKJV) “If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;”*

**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****7.****Only God sees the end from the beginning.**

Will you trust Him always, and in all ways?

*(Isaiah 46:10 NKJV) "Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,"*



*(Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV) "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; {6} In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. {7} Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. {8} It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones."*

God will allow things to happen. Only He knows why, and He often chooses not to answer that question for us? That is His right. He sees the end from the beginning. We do not! You can certainly ask Him "why." He is not obligated to answer. We are the clay. He is the Potter.

**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****8.****God will often use your obedient and patient commitment to integrity to show you "why?"**

Disobedience, impatience, and weakness of character (lack of integrity) will stop you from hearing from God.

**PRINCIPLE  
of Integrity****9.****Promotion comes from the Lord, but it comes through those above you, who take notice of your integrity.**

*(Genesis 41:43, 46 NKJV) "And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt. {46} Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt."*

Many people try to gain recognition and command of authority, while lacking integrity. These are not true leaders. Nor are they true shepherds. They are "hirelings" who will not love the sheep. Their positions are entirely self-centered. These people are dangerous.

Wise leaders will not be very quick to give attention to untrustworthy, unfaithful subordinates, or those who serve for their own benefits or gain. Be a person who serves with integrity. You will gain the attention of those above you. That's the path to promotion.

Joseph had the ear of the Pharaoh. Suddenly, he was walking on a path that led him from the prison to the palace.

*(John 10:12-13 NKJV) "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. {13} The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep."*



**ADD IT UP**

**Strength of Character**  
 +  
**Refusal to Compromise**  
 +  
**Faithful Service to Authority**  
 = **Fulfillment of Your Dreams**



*(Genesis 42:1-6 NKJV) "When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" {2} And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die." {3} So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. {4} But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him." {5} And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. {6} Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth."*

**The dream was fulfilled!**  
**(It works the same today!)**



**From the pit... to the prison... and suddenly... to the palace!**

*(Genesis 50:18-20 NKJV) "Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." {19} Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? {20} "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."*

Your call, your blessings and all of God's favor will certainly be your companion ...But these have an even greater purpose – to be a blessing to many others.

**A Final Principle**

**PRINCIPLE of Integrity**

**10.**

**There is lasting satisfaction in significance!**

Your life can make a difference for others in the light of eternity.

**It all adds up: the fulfillment of the perfect will of God in your life!**

Jacob's Prophecies over his sons from Genesis 49

Verse 22  
Fruitful

Verse 24  
Strength from the Lord

Verse 26  
Incredibly Blessed