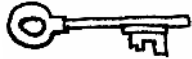


Success and Significance in Life and Ministry

Third Master Key



UNCOMPROMISING INTEGRITY IN LIFE

God is at work through everything we face. His overcoming power works in us as we firmly commit to holy, uncompromising lives (regardless of the situations and circumstances we face). God wants to work in us to make us the champions we can be. Then, He will be well pleased with us, and can use us for His glory. He wants us to fulfill our potential.

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& 9 NKJV

“For we walk by faith, not by sight... {9} Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”

Joseph, God’s Champion: Ten Principles to Live Life by

God’s Aim - Our Goal: Winners and Champions
(Complete in Every Good Work and Well Pleasing to Him)

Joseph had a dream. His brothers hated and envied him.

GENESIS 37:5-11, 13, 18-20 NKJV

“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. ...{11} And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.”

{13} “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

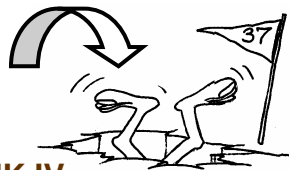
him to kill him. Then they said to one another, “Look, this dreamer is coming! {20} Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!”

First: A Look at the Qualities of a **Compromising Life** Reuben: The Eldest Brother... and Leader

GENESIS 37:22-25 NKJV

“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... 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

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



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

- Never worry about what people might say or think. **Do the right thing.**
- Never risk 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’s 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 (sinful actions) bring consequences that are not easily undone.

The Qualities of an Uncompromising Life of Integrity

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 39:9b, 12 NKJV

*“...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.”*

Potifer's Wife

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

Joseph

1. He lived life with integrity. When the woman's advances came, his reaction was automatic.
2. He refused to consider the 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 a good man, but he lacked the strength of character.

PSALM 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.”

Two Opposing Forces – Two Very Different Processes

JAMES 1:13-15 NKJV

*“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. {14} **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. {15} Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”***

Process of Temptation

Process of Resistance

JAMES 4:7-10 NKJV

*“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. {8} Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. {9} Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. {10} **Humble your-selves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.***

**PRINCIPLE
of Life****1.****Doing the right thing may cost you.
The temptation is to avoid the cost.**

Doing the right thing may bring difficulties. It may seem to be a bigger price than your integrity is worth. That is never the case! There are no refunds! If you spend your integrity you will find it cannot be bought back. You will own what you have bought.

**PRINCIPLE
of Life****2.****A life that is right in the sight of the Lord is always worth more than the price you pay to keep it that way.****PRINCIPLE
of Life****3.****Refuse to compromise your integrity.
Make it a 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 Life****4.****Life’s disappointments are inevitable.
Misery, however, is optional.**

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

**PRINCIPLE
of Life****5.****Your encounter with disappointment
will always be an opportunity for an
encounter 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!

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

You have a choice. Which path will you walk?

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”

Things can change suddenly! God is a “Suddenly God.”

He will take you from the prison to the palace – suddenly!

Pharaoh had a dream. Two years have passed since the chief butler had been released and restored to Pharaoh’s service. Only now is Joseph remembered... two years later! The chief butler speaks to Pharaoh and Joseph is called from the prison to the palace!

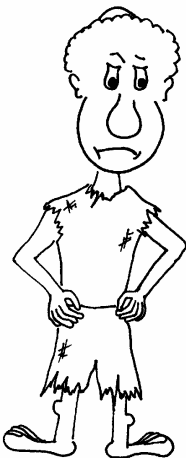
GENESIS 41:25, 33 NKJV

“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.”

God honored Joseph. Promotion came from the Lord!

GENESIS 41:38-41 NKJV

“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.”



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

From the Pit to the Prison and suddenly... to the Palace!**PRINCIPLE
of Life****6.****Integrity of heart is the path to the palace - to your destiny.**

Our willingness to do the right thing will move God to take us to the right place... a good place!

The key question: Will we do our best not to lose our integrity. Or, will we surrender to the temptations, the cravings and the easy ways out?

**PRINCIPLE
of Life****7.****Only God can see the end from the beginning.**

Will you trust Him in all of your ways?

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.”

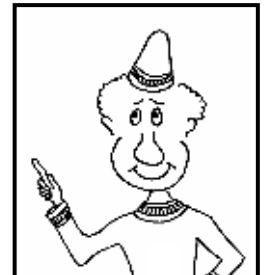
God will allow things to happen. Only He knows why, and He often chooses not to answer that question for us? He sees the end from the beginning. We do not! You can certainly ask Him “why.” He is not obligated to answer. We are the clay. He is the Potter.

**PRINCIPLE
of Life****8.****God will often use your stand against sin to show you why He tests your life.”**

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

**PRINCIPLE
of Life****9.****Promotion comes from the Lord, but it comes through those above you, who observe your lifestyle.****GENESIS 41:43 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.”



Many people try to gain recognition and 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 lives and serves with integrity. You will gain the attention of those above you. That’s the path to promotion.

ADD IT UP

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



(Genesis 42:6 NKJV) “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.”

PRINCIPLE
of Life

10.

There is lasting satisfaction in an uncompromising life. It is a life filled with good success and significance!

Jacob’s Prophecies over his sons from Genesis 49

Verse 22
Fruitful

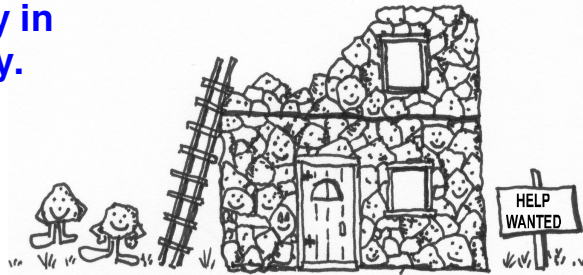
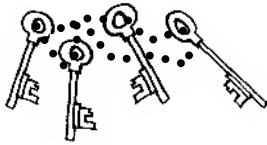
Verse 24
Strength from the Lord

Verse 26
Incredibly Blessed

1 PETER 2:4-5 NKJV

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Uncompromising Integrity in life is our third Master Key. Turn it and unlock your destiny!



Living Stones