

Living the Life You Never Wanted



Part 1: Dealing with Delayed Dreams

Joseph's life can be described as dealing with delayed dreams.



- How we deal with delays and disappointments reveals our character and clarifies our faith.



Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.



Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”



His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.



Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”



When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.—

Genesis 37:3-11 (NIV)



“Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”—Genesis 37:19-20 (NIV)





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Notice Joseph's response to what happens to him.



- Joseph lives like God is in control and knows what he is doing.



“I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.”—Genesis 45:4-5 (NLT)



**When your good, godly dreams
get dashed, try this:**



1) Remember who God is.



God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.—Romans 5:8 (NLT)



See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.—1 John 3:1 (NLT)



2) Remember how God works.



God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.—Romans 8:28 (NLT)



“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”—2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)



3) Live like you believe God is in control.



So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.—Hebrews 10:35-36 (NLT)



*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”—
John 16:33 (NIV)*



- No matter what happens to you, give it your best.



- When push comes to shove, do what is right.



- When you don't understand what is happening to you, persevere with an openness to learn.



**Offer your delayed dreams to God
with confidence in who he is and
how he works.**



[Video-"The Race"]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=cM5A1K6TxxM#at=12

