

# INSIGHTS



## LIVING GOD'S

# DREAM

BY DENNIS BURKE

**"Y**our favor will fall like rain upon our surrendered lives, like showers reviving the earth. In the days of his reign the righteous will spring forth with the abundance of peace and prosperity forevermore" (PSALM 72:6-7 TPT).



There is a deep desire in the heart of God to be lavish in expressing His love to every single one of us. He is our loving Heavenly Father and committed to showing His peace and prosperity to us.

Throughout Scripture are people who witnessed firsthand God's faithfulness to pour out His favor, protection, and prosperity,

even when they faced huge opposition. We see this in the life of Abraham's great-grandson, Joseph. God's plan to preserve, promote, and prosper God's people was given to Joseph in two dreams. These dreams were like seeds planted in the young man that showed a future beyond Joseph's comprehension at the moment.

This is really God's way with us so many times. He shows the end results before that part of His plan for us has begun. When we take His end result by faith, that act sets our internal compass to keep us moving in the direction of His destination for us.

And this really was at the center of Joseph's experiences. At 17 years old, he certainly didn't fully realize the magnitude of what he'd seen in those two dreams.

These were not the typical dreams. In them, Joseph saw bundles of wheat in one dream and the sun and stars in another — all bowing down to him. And Joseph knew what the dreams meant. It was his brothers and parents bowing down before him.

Of course, when Joseph





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shared what he'd dreamed with his brothers, his words only reinforced in their minds why they hated him. Joseph saw himself so different than the rest of his brothers.

The truth was, Joseph *was* very different. Being the eleventh of 12 great-grandsons of Abraham, he was the firstborn to Jacob and Rachael, the woman whom Jacob loved. And Jacob loved Joseph above all of his sons. Jacob made a special tunic only for Joseph. It was long and beautiful, and it signified that this son was not expected to do the heavy labor required of the other sons.

*It was the garment of his father's favor.*

Joseph's brothers hated him for the favor bestowed on him, the dreams he related to them, and the obvious differences in the way he was treated. It's understandable that these brothers were enraged. But regardless of their hatred, Joseph wore his garment of difference — and it was favor that *made* him different.

It's a common problem. Friends and family can misunderstand what has made us different as well. When we make the decision to put Jesus first in our lives, we become free from needing people's approval or validation. Our independence

from that need can intimidate people and cause them to reach the wrong conclusion that we don't want them in our lives.

For Joseph's brothers, this disdain grew into hatred. They wanted Joseph out of their lives for good. In the end, however, rather than kill Joseph, ten of the brothers plotted and then decided to sell him. (Many people have had terrible siblings, but few could have been worse than these!)

As a result, Joseph became a slave for a wealthy, influential man in Egypt named Potiphar. Although Potiphar had many slaves, he recognized that there was none like Joseph.

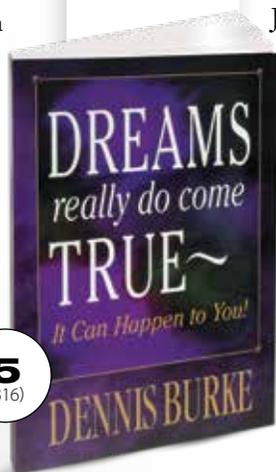
The favor continued on Joseph even in these less-than-ideal conditions. Genesis 39:3-4 tells how God blessed Potiphar's house because Joseph was there.

You see, Jacob's favor on Joseph was truly *God's* favor on him. This begins to paint the picture for every one of us. It is the picture of God's favor that He has placed upon every believer.

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Like Jacob, God's favor and blessing are ours, because of

who we are now in Him—his sons and daughters. We didn't receive that favor by anything we did to earn it. But like Joseph, God's favor sets us apart and makes us different.

Don't confuse God's favor with perfection. His promise to us is *not* that we will be exempt from trouble coming our way. He did say, however, that we are to be courageous in times of adversity because He has already conquered *all* (see John 16:33).

Joseph's impact in Potiphar's house was so dramatic that Potiphar grew to trust and love Joseph. Sadly, Mrs. Potiphar also loved Joseph—in a very different way. She had decided to seduce Joseph. When her advances failed because of Joseph's refusal to be compromised, she became enraged and had him thrown into prison.

Joseph would have spent the rest of his life in prison but for the favor that remained on him. Even there, Joseph rose up above the ordinary—and again, Scripture says he prospered.

Through it all, the conditions that surrounded Joseph did not define him. He was not going to be defined by his brothers' hatred, the pressures or injustice he suffered from Potiphar's wife, nor the hardship

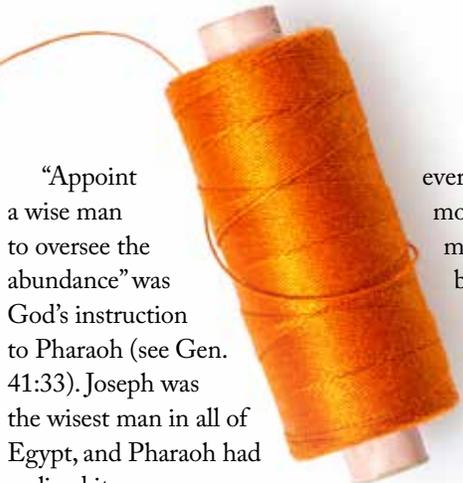
of prison life. Joseph steadfastly continued to walk with God, and by doing so, remained in His favor.

Thirteen years had passed since Joseph had been sold as a slave. Then, during Joseph's years in prison, Egypt's Pharaoh had two dreams. Informed of Joseph's skill in interpreting dreams, the Pharaoh called for Joseph, now 30 years old, to come interpret his dreams.

Joseph listened as the Pharaoh related his dreams, and God gave Joseph the understanding. Seven years of abundance and plenty were coming, followed by seven years of severe famine.

Then Joseph went further, instructing the Pharaoh on what he must do. Amazing, really, that the prisoner was actually instructing the Pharaoh! But Joseph had God's wisdom and prophetic understanding regarding what had to be done. This was the result of Joseph's maintaining his walk with God through every injustice and hardship he faced. When bitterness and hatred were sown into Joseph's life, they were conquered by his commitment to walk with God.

We can learn so much from Joseph's story that applies to us right now. The pain inflicted by imperfect or jealous people, the injustice we've suffered, or the years stolen from us *must not* define us. We know God's favor and blessing is on us for the days we are in *now*. God's wisdom for every situation and opportunity is available, as long as we have not cluttered ourselves with the devices and destructive deposits of our enemy.



“Appoint a wise man to oversee the abundance” was God’s instruction to Pharaoh (see Gen. 41:33). Joseph was the wisest man in all of Egypt, and Pharaoh had realized it.

Joseph was appointed to the highest position in Egypt under the Pharaoh. In this promotion, God’s favor is seen once again on Joseph’s life. He had not changed; God’s favor had not changed. The position of influence had come to pass because the prophetic dreams Joseph had years before had never diminished or become obsolete.

As a result, Joseph did oversee the abundant harvests God brought to Egypt over the next seven years. He set aside 20 percent of the grain to provide for the years of famine that he knew were coming. When those lean years did come, there was ample supply of grain for all in Egypt and for the surrounding nations to come and purchase. God used this gathering of wealth in Egypt to ultimately provide for Israel when, 400 years later, the children of Israel left in the great exodus on the way to the Promised Land.

Joseph’s brothers were among those who came to Egypt during the years of famine to buy grain. They didn’t realize the governor of Egypt whom they’d heard would sell to them was in fact the very brother they’d sold into slavery more than 20 years earlier.

When they came into the governor’s presence, they bowed down to Joseph as

everyone did. It was in that moment that the fulfillment of Joseph’s dreams became crystal clear. His brothers bowed down to him, just as he had seen so many years before. Joseph was in

place—positioned to provide for the entire nation of Israel. His father, brothers, and all the families of Israel came to live in Goshen, the finest region of Egypt. Joseph was exalted to a place of power in order to bring God’s blessing onto multitudes

of people both at home and in surrounding nations.

There are so many take-aways in this account of Joseph’s experience with God. Here are a few:

- **Vision for the future is not to frustrate you in**

## It’s supernatural.

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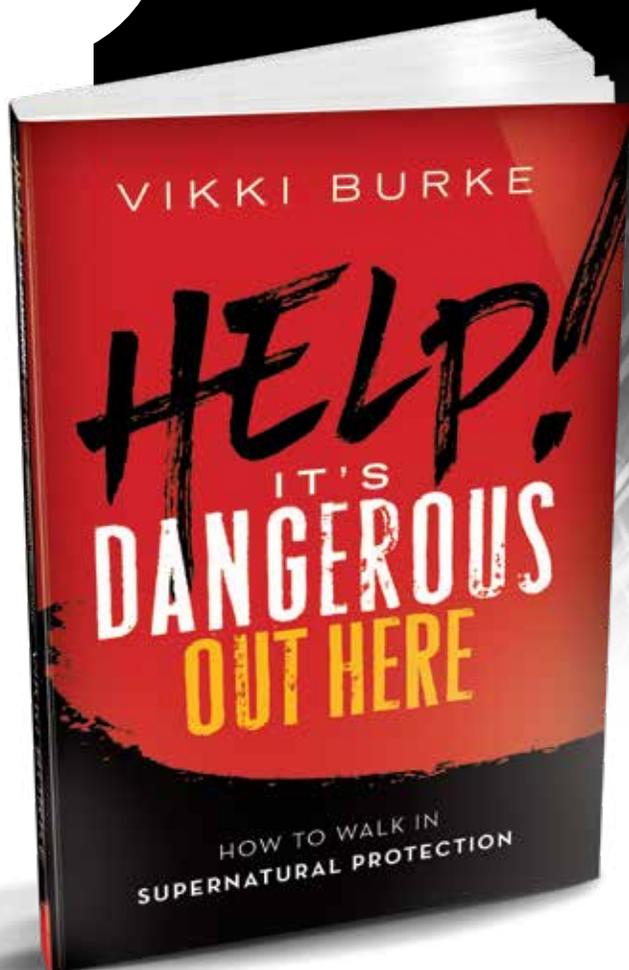
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**the present. Your present may not yet reflect the favor you walk in. Don't let your current condition or position define your faith for the future.**

- **Joseph maintained his walk with God when no one was looking. In the face of hatred from his family, he refused to be embittered. Despite the seduction and injustice of Potiphar's wife and being forgotten in prison, Joseph did not waver from his walk with God. When others don't see your heart to remain faithful, God does.**
- **The dreams God gave Joseph were leading to harvest and provision beyond the need.**

- **The dreams were not about giving Joseph status; they were about positioning him for service. God's favor on our lives is for positioning us for service as well.**

All of this is to say that we are designed for and defined by the favor and blessing God has bestowed upon us. He is raising a generation of people walking in divine favor!

God's dream includes demonstrating His favor and blessing. Dreams really do come true. It can happen to you!

"Lord, how wonderfully you bless the righteous. Your favor wraps around each one and covers them under your canopy of kindness and joy" (Psalm 5:12 TPT).

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**COLUMBIA, MO | APRIL 5-6**

Family Worship Center  
4925 E. Bonne Femme Church Rd.  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-441-1140

**NIGERIA | APRIL 15-16**

Fountain of Life Church  
12 Industrial Estate Rd.  
Ilupeju, Lagos, Nigeria  
0234 816 904 5758

**NIGERIA | APRIL 17**

Christian Community Church Intl.  
34 Benson St.  
Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria  
0809 339 124 5051

**CANADA | MAY 3**

Heritage of Faith Christian Center  
736 Main St.  
Winkler, MB R6W 4A8  
204-331-4182

**MESA, AZ | MAY 23-24**

Living Word Bible Church  
3520 E. Brown Rd.  
Mesa, AZ 85213  
480-964-4463

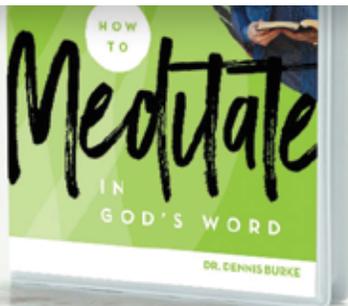
**PALM BAY, FL | MAY 30-31**

The House at Palm Bay Church  
1520 Bottlebrush Dr.  
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321-952-5725



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