



We All Have Reasons To Give Up - Choose Not To!

Genesis 50:20 - "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."

Illustrated from Genesis 37-50

True identity is shaped through difficulties

A true believer must pay a price to bring a divine dream to fruition. That price often comes due sooner and costs more than they think, and it must be paid more than once.

Behind every dream lie unforeseen disappointments - the kind that can discourage even the most determined heart. But just because things

don't go as planned, that's no reason to give up. Chances are, you'll face more "Give up?" moments than "Go on!" moments. Look at the surprises Joseph lived through and how he reacted:

1. Misunderstood by his family - Give up? (No)
2. Sold into slavery by his brothers - Give up? (No)
3. Lived in a strange country far from home - Give up? (No)
4. Given favor in Potiphar's house - **Go on!**
5. Wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife - Give up? (No)
6. Thrown into prison - Give up? (No)
7. Put in charge of all the prisoners - Give up? - **Go on!**
8. Forgotten by the chief butler - Give up? (No)
9. Remained in prison for two years - Give up? (No)

10. Interpreted Pharaoh's dream - **Go on!**

11. Became second-in-command of Egypt - **Go on!**

Joseph's life held more give-ups than go-ons. What was it that kept him from letting go of his dream?

1. **Every time you find yourself in a give-up time of life**, when the price of a dream seems too high, find the strength to go on by remembering **Isaiah 41:10** - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
2. **Every time you're overlooked or forgotten by people who should remember you** (like the butler forgot Joseph), find the strength to go on by remembering Hebrews 6:10: "God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him."
3. **Every time you can't see how your pain connects to a purpose**, find the strength to go on by remembering **Genesis 50:20** - "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."
4. **Every time the gap between the dream and reality feels impossible to close**, find the strength to go on by remembering **Ephesians 3:20** - "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."
5. **Every time you're tempted to believe you've been abandoned**, find the strength to go on by remembering **Deuteronomy 31:6** - "He will not leave you nor forsake you."

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- **What is the cost of your dream?**

Joseph's dream cost him his coat, his freedom, and years of his life before it cost him nothing at all. **Are you willing to pay the price before you see the payoff?**

- **What is the timeline of your dream?**

Joseph dreamed at seventeen but didn't step into its fulfillment until he was thirty - over a decade of pits, servitude, and prison in between. **Are you measuring your dream by God's timeline, or your own?**

- **What is the test of your dream?**

Before Joseph's dream was fulfilled, it was tested - through betrayal, false accusation, and being forgotten. **What is testing your dream right now, and is it revealing your character or your compromise?**