



**How to Discover Purpose Through Pain
October 8 & 9, 2022**

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

In Hebrew, the word “intended” means “to weave.”

The evil intent:

- His brother's intent was premeditated murder or abandonment.
- His master's intent was slavery and abuse.
- His master's wife's intent was false accusations of rape.
- His prison guard's intent was to lock him up and throw away the key.
- His friend's intent was to forget the promise he made.
- His Pharaoh's intent was to get the answer or execute him.

Joseph chose God's path through pain, to purpose.

Will we?

Following God's path to purpose means I must:



Choose to honor God, especially when I don't understand His plan.

Genesis 39:2-3 (NIV)

The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did...

Genesis 39:7-9 (NIV)

...and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

God's providence means:

- God is actively involved in every detail of life.
- God is sustaining every element of the universe and my life.

Deism believes God got the wheels turning, then stepped out of the process.

Pantheism believes God is in everything but is not personally involved.

Atheism believes there is no God.

2

Approach every challenge as if it is the most important job in the world.

Genesis 39:20-23 (NIV)

Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Colossians 3:22-23 (TPT)

Let every employee listen well and follow the instructions of their employer, not just when their employers are watching, and not in pretense, but faithful in all things. For we are to live our lives with pure hearts in the constant awe and wonder of our Lord God. Put your heart and soul into every activity you do, as though you are doing it for the Lord himself and not merely for others.

Proverbs 22:29 (TPT)

If you are uniquely gifted in your work, you will rise and be promoted. You won't be held back— you'll stand before kings!

3

Believe God will give me the supernatural power to succeed so I can give Him all the glory.

Genesis 41:16 (NIV)

"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

Psalm 147:3-6a (TPT)

He heals the wounds of every shattered heart. He sets his stars in place, calling them all by their names. How great is our God! There's absolutely nothing his power cannot accomplish, and he has infinite understanding of everything. Yahweh supports and strengthens the humble...



Let go of the past and press on towards God's purpose for my life.

Genesis 45:4-5 (NIV)

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."

If we don't let go of the past, we are destined to repeat it.

Genesis 42:20-21 (NIV)

"But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die." This they proceeded to do. They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us."

We can clothe ourselves in our hurt or we can clothe ourselves in God's hope.

Genesis 47:5-7 (NLT)

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Now that your father and brothers have joined you here, choose any place in the entire land of Egypt for them to live. Give them the best land of Egypt. Let them live in the region of Goshen. And if any of them have special skills, put them in charge of my livestock, too." Then Joseph brought in his father, Jacob, and presented him to Pharaoh. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Philippians 3:13-14 (ICB)

Brothers, I know that I have not yet reached that goal. But there is one thing I always do: I forget the things that are past. I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me. I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize. That prize is mine because God called me through Christ to the life above.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (TPT)

For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God through our union with him.



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