

Joseph, the One Who Kept His Integrity Intact **(Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 39)**

Introduction

What is the criteria or benchmark for success in life? Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob, the Great Patriarch of Israel, gives us the answer.

When we study the life of Joseph, there are two things stand out:

1. Joseph kept his integrity intact
2. Joseph trusted in the sovereignty of God

I want to propose these as the mantras for success in life.

For today, we will consider the first: *Joseph, the one who kept his integrity intact*:

What integrity is?

- “Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, moral uprightness.”
- Opposite of integrity is dishonesty, hypocrisy, and doublemindedness.
- Integrity does not mean sinlessness as there is none perfect. When a man of integrity realizes his mistakes, he comes to the Lord Jesus Christ with humility and repentance.

The Root of Integrity (Gen 39:2, 21)

The root of integrity is a person’s relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We see this very clearly in the life of Joseph.

- Gen 39:2, 21
- Psalms 26:1-3, “Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.”
- Psalms 25:21, “Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.”

Establishing a relationship with Christ and trusting in Him is the key to success in life.

The Refusal of Integrity (Gen 39:7-10)

The man of integrity takes a stand for the Lord and refuses to go along with the crowd.

In the case of Joseph, he refused to be tempted by Potiphar’s wife.

- Gen 39:7-10, verse 8, “but he refused,” and verse 10, “that he hearkened not unto her.”
- Psalms 15:1-3, “LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.”

The man of integrity takes a stand against sin and compromise.

The Result of Integrity (Gen 39:2, 3, 5, 21, 23)

Integrity will always be rewarded, if not in the eyes of men, but in the presence of God.

Joseph's testimony is very encouraging in this regard:

- Gen 39:2, 3, 5, 21, 23

God vindicates His people, and will always be on their side as their defender and protector.

Conclusion

Today, God looks for a man of integrity. When the world searches for men of capability, God looks for men of integrity to fulfill His most holy plan for His church on earth.

Job's testimony, Job 27:6, "My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live."

David's example, 1 Chronicles 29:17, "I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee."

Will you be that man?