

C2. THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Remember how we learned last week that the first place that the word glory is used is [Gen. 31:1](#) in reference to wealth. I discovered that the first place "glory" in the English is used versus wealth or another definition is in [Gen. 45:13](#) context might surprise you!

[Genesis 45:13](#) (NKJV)

13 So you shall tell my father **of all my glory in Egypt**, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

Now this is significant because we are once again seeing a reference to "kabod" or the glory of God in the context of wealth, influence, and dominion of a man. Joseph, a descendant of Jacob, the lineage of covenant, is now one of the wealthiest men in Egypt in riches, honor, resources, and influence. **God has given each of us glory so that we can give it to Him.** Religion tells us differently and that has kept many from actually doing what they were put on the earth to do! He kept the faith in each trial and is now second to Pharaoh in Egypt. Egypt is synonymous with a worldly system superpower.

How did this happen?

[Genesis 39:2-5](#) (NKJV)

2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority.

5 So it was, from the time *that* he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

Joseph was successful BECAUSE the Lord was with him. The Lord was with him because of the legal covenant made between God and Abraham, Joseph's great grandfather. Potiphar was able to see THAT THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH and THAT THE LORD MADE ALL JOSEPH DID TO PROSPER. Joseph's success and favor was evident to a pagan. He acknowledged the Lord was with a man because of that man's success.

[Deuteronomy 8:17-18](#)

(NKJV) 17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' 18 And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

Your success should be framed within the context of the Lord being with you as a testimony to those who don't yet know Him.

Listen to this statement by Gary Keese:ee:

"THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR GOD AND THEY WON'T SEE HIM EXCEPT THROUGH ME AND THAT INCLUDES PROSPERING THROUGH THE BLESSING OF THE COVENANT OF GOD."

Now I don't want to reduce wealth as evidence of God's approval on you like the religious leaders thought when the Lord was here. Prosperity is BECAUSE OF His covenant, our appropriating His covenant, being generous, and being

wise. But I do want to suggest that success is a sign of God's favor on you and can be used to create a desire within the heart of the one who doesn't yet know Him.

Everyone is equally loved by God but not everyone has equal favor. Favor comes from doing what is right when no one is looking or when no one knows who you are. Gary also states, "**How you handle your life when no one knows your name determines if someone will ever know your name.**" What you practice in private has a big deal with what happens in public. And we must fill the integrity gap—the gap between how and who we present our social self versus our private self. The more you close the gap, the happier you are and the greater success you will have.

Psalm 1:1–3 ESV

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Joseph was promoted because of his faithful actions in the midst of extremely difficult situations and his delight in the word of God. Delight is pleasure and desire. It comes from a root that means "incline toward something." Interesting the word "iniquity" is a bent toward something. We see from Joseph's righteous actions when faced with temptation that **he loved the Word more than the pleasures his position could have afforded him even at his own personal cost.**

Wisdom also promoted Joseph. He demonstrated it in the ability to interpret Pharaoh's dream (a demonstration of wisdom is the ability to solve riddles) and in the insight he gave on how to respond to the dream.

[Genesis 41:32-40 \(NKJV\)](#)

32 And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

33 Now therefore, **let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.**

34 Let Pharaoh do *this*, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.

35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

36 Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."

37 So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants.

38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God?"

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, *there is* no one as discerning and wise as you.

40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

JOSEPH KNEW THIS WAS HIS TIME! All the years of the two dreams of rule from God being before his face were suddenly falling into place. But the wise know there's no such thing as suddenly. **Joseph was as wise as a serpent here and basically presented his resume in a nice discreet Jewish way and got the job! And note that Pharaoh acknowledged "the Spirit of God" operating through Joseph!**

Would Joseph have moved so cleverly if he didn't believe the two dreams? No! **The fulfillment of the dreams and vision god gives us is when we believe and that belief then brings the manifestation in the natural.** That's crucial to

understand. You don't get the answer when you get the answer. You get the answer in the secret place of prayer in faith.

Mark 11:22-24

²² Jesus replied, "Let the faith of God be in you! ²³ Listen to the truth I speak to you: If someone says to this mountain with great faith and having no doubt, 'Mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the midst of the sea,' and believes that what he says will happen, it will be done. ²⁴ This is the reason I urge you to boldly believe for whatever you ask for in prayer—**believe that you have received it and it will be yours.** ¹

Belief shapes our lives meaning what you have believed should manifest in your thoughts, actions, and behavior.

The secret to Joseph's success is that he believed WHO GOD SAID HE WAS and no matter whether as a slave or prisoner, he lived his life in a way to reflect his belief in God and His Word.

[Proverbs 8:18](#) (NKJV)

18 Riches and honor *are* with me, Enduring riches and righteousness.

Wealth is present in true wisdom. Wisdom is the skill and expertise to solve problems. When you solve problems, you're handsomely paid for it.

[James 3:13-16](#) (NKJV)

13 Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

Listen to verse 16 in the KJV.

[James 3:16](#) (KJV)

16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

Strife is an interesting word. Self-seeking is definitely a great definition. Originally the Greek word for strife, "eritheia," meant a field worker or reaper, honorable work. Then it came to mean a hireling or anyone working for pay. It then evolved into meaning someone willing to do anything for their own welfare, a self-willed person seeking opportunities for promotion. From there it became electioneering, a partisan factious spirit that would resort to any method for winning followers." As a side note...if you want to know what spirit is behind the partisan politics in Washington, it's the spirit of strife. And that's why there's so much confusion and evil going on.

Verse 15 says that this type of wisdom is earthly, sensual, and demonic. Earthly means its origin is not heaven.

Sensual means it's soulish or SOUL BASED. There is a wisdom we can access that is only found in God. Daniel operated in this wisdom. We have solutions to city problems inside us because His Spirit lives in us. We have solutions to family issues because we can access a wisdom those who don't know Him can't. He is a treasure in earthen vessels.

¹ Brian Simmons, trans., [The Passion Translation](#) (BroadStreet Publishing, 2017), Mk 11:22–24.