**Cross and Crown Christian Outreach**

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**Prepare For Destiny Battles\_2.**

**Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.** - Gen. 37:5 NIV

Today’s scripture is a continuation of our series of devotionals on the need for the Christian to prepare for destiny battles. Joseph who was the 11th son of Jacob, born to him by his late beloved wife, Rachael was dearly loved by his father so much so that it triggered jealousy in his elder brothers – Gen. 37:3-4. The love between father and child was further emphasised with the making of a colourful dress for Joseph by his father but things started falling apart when he had and shared his dream with his father and brothers. The meaning of the dream was not hidden and seemed too dangerous to be ignored, especially by the brothers who could not imagine their having to suffer another humiliation because of him – Gen. 37:5-11. There was only one solution and that was to get rid of him. His dreams had gotten him into a big mess – Gen. 37:12-36.

Most people in reacting to this development will quickly blame Joseph for revealing his dreams to his family members but wait a minute, we are not talking about ordinary dream or a dream based on personal aspirations here. What is in reference here is the revelations of the divine plan for his life without revealing the manner of its fulfilment. The process had started before he was born but now, it is getting to the point where his contribution to his journey to destiny would be required in its fulfilment. At this stage, it was no longer going to be about what he wanted to happen but what the Almighty God has designed.

The commencement of this stage of the journey to destiny could only be through the active roles of family members, at least that is the way the Almighty God has designed it. Suddenly, family members became very determined to take his life, an act that seemed they were going to succeed with but which the Almighty God knew all the while that it will never happen.

Many Christians there are today who are at the phase of their destiny journey where family members have to play a role. Some of these roles are been played with the father, brother, uncle or whoever providing one form of support or the other, that we consider positive and we quickly thank them for it, remaining eternally grateful to them, but that is when the destiny plan is for them to play such roles. For some, destiny plan expects them to play that kind of role that family members of Joseph played and that may just be the people that we are praying against during all those prayer sessions that seek to stop them in their strides from doing what they are destined to do. Have you ever stopped to imagine what would have happened if Joseph had successfully prayed against the act of his family members?. Lets see some of them.

1. The word of God to Abraham that his descendants will live as strangers in foreign land will not come to pass – Gen. 15:9-16. That is an event that no one could hqve ever stopped from happening.
2. Joseph will not have fulfilled destiny of being the saviour of his family in particular and God’s people in general.
3. Joseph will never have become the Deputy Prime Minister in Egypt, a position that facilitated and made the stay of God’s people in Egypt very comfortable.
4. His entire generation starting from his father will probably have been wiped out due to hunger.

This is not to say that the intention of such family members is always noble but it is to let the Christian know that they will only succeed if it is in God’s plan for your life just as the scripture reminds us that all things work together for good for those that love God and are called according to His purpose – Rom. 8:28. All the Christian need do in such times is to remain steadfast in the Lord, after all, the reason for all those spiritual activities is to request for God’s support in achieving success in life and there is no way in determining the manner of His intervention. The revelations of the divine plan for the upliftment of Joseph and the commencement of its implementation introduced new challenges into the life of Joseph some of which are listed below:

1. His dream and its implementation produced intense dislike and possible hatred from family members. The dislike was so intense that they did not mind him dead – Gen. 37:19-20.
2. His dream took him from the comfort of his father’s house to the pit (Gen. 37:23-24), turned him into a servant (Gen. 37:36) and made him a prisoner – Gen. 39:1-20.
3. His dream became the beginning of the darkest moments of his life. He spent 13 years experiencing what he never thought he could go through in life, especially with him coming from a family of above average social status.

He however came out better because, all through his experience, there was no record of him ever allowing his head to drop. He remained very optimistic and focused probably using his divinely revealed dream as his motivation.

You may just be on the way to destiny with all those experiences that you are presently going through. You are better off using the approach of Joseph to successfully arrive at your destiny in life.

1. Like Joseph, remain principled, being guided by the laws of God. Do not let your situation make you compromise, neither should you look for a short cut route out of that situation. Like it is said, that short cut route will only cut short your life. A short cut route to instant but temporary relief and success was what was presented to Joseph by the wife of Potiphar, but which Joseph rightfully declined – Gen. 39:6-10.
2. Avoid self pity. You need not think about who you were or what you used to be. These were in the past. You need not bother about all those you think were responsible for your situation. Move forward in your thinking and your life will move forward.
3. Take your chances. Use what you have to get out of that situation. No matter how difficult the situation may be for the Christian, the solution lies in that situation most times and not outside of it. The use of the talent of dream interpretation in that prison situation was what got Joseph to the next phase of his destiny journey Gen. 40:1-23. It is true that the chief cup bearer forgot Joseph but the important thing is that he remembered when it was God’s time for Joseph to be out of the prison. It was all about a divine plan that is beyond the understanding of men. If Joseph did not take his chances well by using his gift in that situation, the chief cup bearer will never have had any event to reference when his destined time to be released arrived. It is not about the chief cup bearer of your life forgetting you, but about the Almighty God and His plans for your life. The chief cup bearer of your life will definitely you when the time comes but what will he remember you by?

The arrival of the time of manifestation of God’s plan for Joseph to glow brought along pain and discomfort, but his dream remained his motivation and his reliance on his God and his commandments saw him through. That should also be your approach and not that constant attack, mostly through prayers, on family members and friends, targeting them as enemies of progress. Spend time on his promises for you. Believe Him that He will do all that He said He will do. Have faith in Him and your victory is assured.

May your testimony and songs of victory come very soon in Jesus name. Amen.