



## MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:5-7
- Romans 12:9-13; Phil. 2:1-8
- Genesis 37, 39
- Genesis 40-50

## OBJECT LESSON: BROTHERLY AFFECTION

- The Basics
- Discarding Brotherly Affection
- Incorporating Brotherly Affection

## FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“...to those who have obtained the same precious **faith** as we have obtained, and obtained it in the same way, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:” 2 Peter 1:1

“**For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to add to your faith virtue;** add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly affection; and add to brotherly affection, love.” 2 Peter 1:5-7

“**If these things are yours** and abound... and...**if you do these things...**” 2 Peter 1:8, 10

“**He who lacks these things** is nearsighted; he is approaching total blindness. It’s as if he has forgotten he’s been completely cleansed from his old sins.” 2 Peter 1:9

“Just as, “**The dog returns to his own vomit,**” and “the pig that has washed returns to wallowing in the mud.”” 2 Peter 2:22

## **INTRODUCTION: Object Lesson: Brotherly Affection**

*Faith is the foundation of the Christian life and it is a gift from God that came to you by way of His grace. And you must practice your faith if you wish to gain continual access to that grace. To do so, add these things to your faith in this precise sequence. First add virtue. That means to seek the Lord's voice for what is right in every matter and don't even attempt to seek new information or take any action before you are confident you're in alignment with God's will.*

*Once you are certain about God's directions, to truly demonstrate wisdom, begin by gathering any missing information before you act. It is only after you have the necessary knowledge to proceed judiciously that you should take any decisive action. It requires excellent self-control to both take wise action and to refrain from acting when God tells you to be still. It is also critical to recognize that challenges and temptations surely await; they will test you, misdirect you, and humble you. Nevertheless, one must stay the course to fulfill God's desires, and that takes perseverance. By the way, unless you humbly come to the conclusion that you made an error that must be corrected before you continue, persist until you succeed; a display of permanent self-control is part of the process. However, if you do discover you've made an error, it is prudent to retrace your steps to find your mistake. Begin by*

*reconsidering if you've misinterpreted God's original instructions and proceed from there.*

*This entire process is meant to be pursued in every area of life. Doing so is the very essence of godliness. No doubt, your imperfections will be exposed as you progress, but godliness is not characterized by perfection. Godliness, instead, is the authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection, not the achievement of perfection. It's hallmark is a never-ending desire to pursue God's will in all things, and to make the appropriate corrections along the way.*

*And that is how a disciple of Christ becomes an effective minister of reconciliation—one who readily imparts God's grace. His relentless pursuit of godliness has crafted him into a man whose surrendered life is poured out in sacrifice for the priorities of others. He is a beacon of brotherly affection who exudes kindness, a true disciple of Christ recognized by the love he shares. He imitates the character of Christ, and that is the constant meditation of his heart—to look more and more like Christ by how he loves.*

*God is love; so, to become love is to become like Christ. Thus, to imitate God's love is the only true measure of a perfect man—the full stature of Christ. And that is the goal of discipleship. Therefore, practice diligently if you wish to experience the fullness of God's precious and exceedingly great promises, the greatest of which is the promise to partake in God's Divine Nature.*

## THE BASICS

### 1. Everything Begins with Faith

#### A. Faith Like Mine

(1) Faith: The Foundation of Everything (See: [Faith Like Mine](#))

(a) Two Faiths: From Faith to Faith

1. “I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ; it is **the power of God for salvation** for everyone who believes, (Jew first also Greek). **In it is revealed God’s righteousness from faith to faith.** As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”” Romans 1:16-17

a) Righteousness: revealed through the gift of faith.

1) “...to those who have obtained the same precious **faith...**, in the same way, **by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:**” 2 Peter 1:1

b) Righteousness: revealed by the practice of faith!

1) “For this very reason you are required to do your part. **Make every effort to add to your faith...**” 2 Peter 1:5

(b) The gift of faith must become your practice of faith!

1. “Being therefore **justified by faith, we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ; through

whom **we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand..." Romans 5:1-2

a) **Justified by Faith:**

- 1) The gift of faith came by way of God's grace.
- 2) It softened your heart to the Gospel of Salvation.
- 3) The Cross became real (believe-repent-confess).
- 4) All sins instantly forgiven; made right with God.
- 5) No longer in debt to God; now in harmony.

b) **Access by Faith:**

- 1) The practice of faith (you exercise the free gift).
- 2) How you gain continual access to God's grace.
- 3) It empowers you to live as a disciple.
- 4) Leave behind sin of your old life (new creation).
- 5) This distinguishes a disciples from a converts.

B. **Add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. Persistent Repetition Accelerates Character Transformation Impacting Christian Ethos.**

(1) The 7 Steps to Practice Faith ([Just Add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E](#))

(a) Add to your faith: this order is as important as the steps!

1. **"For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to** add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; **add to godliness, brotherly**

**affection;** and add to brotherly affection, love.” 2

Peter 1:5-7

a) **Faith (Ground 0):**

- 1) The foundation of the Christian life
- 2) A Gift from God that came by His grace
- 3) Practice faith to gain continual access to grace
- 4) Add these things to faith in this sequence:

b) **Virtue (Step 1):**

- 1) Moral excellence (1st) or coordinates will be off
- 2) Morality according to world is ever-changing
- 3) Virtue: whatever is morally excellent to God
- 4) To practice your faith consider:
  - a. What is right to God in this situation?
  - b. What does Yahweh think about this?
  - c. What is God’s heart on this matter?

c) **Knowledge (Step 2):**

- 1) Additional information needed to act wisely
- 2) To do what is right: fill the knowledge gap
  - a. What am I missing?
  - b. What do I need to know before I act?

d) **Self-control (Step 3):** to act wisely (not by your first impulses and desires).

- 1) Wisdom: godly application of knowledge, instruction and understanding.
- 2) Once you know what God wants you to do and you have filled in the knowledge gap, you must have the self-control to do it.
- 3) Two arms of Self-Control:
  - a. **One:** take action.
  - b. **Two:** to constantly guard that your actions stay in alignment with virtue and knowledge.
- 4) Two components of Self-Control:
  - a. **Do:** once you know what to do and how to do it, you must do it.
  - b. **Do not do:** you must know what not to do and then don't do those things.
- 5) A life of self-control:
  - a. Tell yourself no when yes is so tempting.
  - b. Tell yourself yes when no is more convenient.
- e) **Perseverance (Step 4):** Doing what is right, no matter how hard, how long, or what the cost!
  - 1) **Suffering:** challenges and difficulties are part of the process. (Y'shua suffered, why not you?)
  - 2) No matter how long or what the challenges...
    - a. Persist in what God called you to do.

- b. Abstain from what God called you to abstain.
- 3) Perseverance is PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL.
  - a. You know what is right according to God!
  - b. You know how to do it and you do it!
  - c. You discipline yourself from straying off course, but it is still not working as planned!
  - d. The fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; suffering persists; and hope starts to fade...
  - e. Don't ever surrender! Don't give up!
  - f. Perseverance: permanent, relentless, never-ending self control
- f) **Godliness (Step 5):** holistic integrity!
  - 1) Characterized by the desire to be in alignment with God's in all areas, and then their pursuit...
    - a. All components of your spirit, soul and body are longing to be in complete agreement with what they were designed for by your Creator.
    - b. It does not mean you have perfected your quest, but that you perfected your pursuit!
    - c. The authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection, not the achievement of perfection.
- g) **Brotherly Affection (Step 6):**



- 1) Be kind to and prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!
  - a. Christian Alert: It's never been about you!
  - b. Christ did everything for us, not for Himself.
  - c. That is the model of how we should live.
  - d. No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others.

h) **Love (Step 7):**

- 1) God is love.
- 2) No fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.
- 3) Love is the bond of perfection.
- 4) We can experience God in us.
- 5) We can have the mind of God (think like God).
- 6) We can love like God. *"We love Him because He first loved us."*
- 7) Love is the Divine Nature; goal of discipleship.
- 8) To love like God is to become like Christ!

**C. The 1 Thing**

- (1) Life-Altering Critical Negligence ([The 1 Thing](#))
  - (a) One thing can shipwreck everything!
    1. **"He who lacks these things** is nearsighted; he is approaching total blindness. It's as if he's forgotten

he's been completely cleansed from his old sins." 2

Peter 1:9

- a) Lacks what? Practice adding to your Faith: Virtue...
- b) Cause of Blindness: living *in the past* prevents you from seeing *in the future*!
  - 1) Forgetting you've ALREADY been cleansed...
    - a. You will not pursue... adding to your faith...  
(You will instead pursue your past sins!)
    - b. Fullness of God's promises becomes elusive.
    - c. Participation in Divine Nature—impossible!
- c) Why is forgetting so devastating?
  - 1) He who holds onto his past is bound to repeat it
    - a. ***"The dog returns to his own vomit,"*** and *"the pig that has washed returns to wallowing in the mud."* 2 Peter 2:22
- d) How then should you live?
  - 1) ***"For we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles,*** and having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries."  
1 Peter 4:3
  - 2) *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every*

*weight, and **sin which clings so closely**, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**,*" Hebrews 12:1 ESV

- a. You've invested too much into your former pagan life. Don't invest one more resource!
- b. Don't even go near your past sins!
- c. Leave the past in the past and pursue becoming more like Christ every day!

(b) That is why YOU are being REMINDED!

1. "Therefore **I will not be negligent to remind you of these things**, though **you know them** and are **established in the present truth**. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly**, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. Yes, **I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things** even after my departure." 2 Peter 1:12-15 WEBUS

- a) What Peter has to say is so important that he uses his last words before his execution to remind his students, and us, of the these truths...
- b) Not new information; already fully established...

## DISCARDING BROTHERLY AFFECTION

### 2. When love for your brother takes a back seat to envy, jealousy, and self-preservation...

A. **Object Lesson: Discarding Brotherly Affection:** to be unkind and in no way prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!

(1) The Backstory: an error in Judgment (Genesis 37:1-11)

(a) The Favored Son (Genesis 37:1-4)

1. Following in his father Isaac's footsteps, Jacob dwelt in Canaan and this is the story of his favored son.

a) Review: Jacob loved his wife Rachel more than his other three wives (Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah), but she was barren until the other wives had already born him 10 sons (the first ten tribes of Israel).

b) Joseph was his 11th son, born later in Jacob's life.

c) Because Joseph came from his wife Rachel (his true love), Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his other children.

d) He even crafted a colorful overcoat for Joseph, one made with expensive materials and dyed with a variety of special dyes (a coat of many colors).

e) Joseph was the first of two sons with Rachel (the 12th would be Benjamin, who was not yet born).

2. The following events began when Joseph was seventeen years old.
  - a) Joseph was tending the flock with his brothers, Dan and Naphtali (Bilhah's sons) and Gad and Asher (Zilpah's sons)
  - b) Joseph reported to his father that his brothers were negligent in their duties.
  - c) It was obvious to his brothers that their father loved Joseph more and it caused them to hate him.
  - d) They couldn't even speak a kind word to or about him, nor was there ever peace between them.

(b) Joseph's Prophetic Dreams (Genesis 37:5-11)

1. Joseph had two dreams and he describes them to his brothers who already despised him.
2. Joseph's 1st Dream
  - a) We brothers were binding sheaves in the field.
  - b) My sheaf arose and stood upright and your sheaves bowed down to mine.
  - c) His brothers questioned him; *"Will you reign over us, and have dominion over us?"*
  - d) This caused them to hate him even more.
3. Joseph's 2nd Dream
  - a) This time he told his father and brothers.

- b) I saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars, and they all bowed down to me.
  - c) Jacob rebuked him: *“Shall your mother and I and your brothers come to bow down before you?”*
  - d) This stoked his brothers’ envy, and although highly disturbed, his father kept the extent of his feelings on the matter close to his heart.
- (2) The Story: choices motivated by envy, jealousy, and self-preservation (Genesis 37:12-36)
- (a) Brothers who act with no Brotherly Affection (Genesis 37:12-22)
    - 1. Joseph’s brothers were out tending the flock and Israel (Jacob) sends him to check on them.
      - a) He meets a man wandering in the field who tells him that his brothers had gone on to Dothan, and that is where Joseph finds them.
    - 2. They saw Joseph coming from a distance and conspired to kill him.
      - a) *“Look, this dreamer is coming! Let’s kill him and cast him into a pit. We’ll say a wild beast devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams!”*
      - b) Reuben did not agree and wanted to save Joseph so he offered an alternative...

- 1) *“Let’s not kill him or shed any blood, but instead cast him into a pit.”*
- c) His strategy was to come back later to ‘save him from the pit’ and bring him back to their father.
- (b) They seized Joseph and stripped him of his coat of many colors. (Genesis 37:23-30)
1. They cast him into an empty pit with \*no water in it.
  - a) \*Water
    - 1) Deep water would have drowned him quickly and shallow water would have allowed him to survey for quite a long time!
  - b) After the crime, they sat down to eat a meal when a company of Ishmaelite merchants passed with their goods intending to do business in Egypt.
  - c) Judah made a suggestion...
    - a) *“We can’t ignore the fact that he’s our brother, and there’s no profit in killing him and hiding his blood. It would, instead, be beneficial in a few ways if we sell him. We can make some cash and ‘keep our hands clean’ at the same time.”*
  - d) His brothers listened, pulled Joseph up out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

- e) When Reuben returned to rescue him, he was gone, so he tore his clothes and approached his brothers in complete distress.
- (c) They took Joseph's famous coat of many colors and stained it with the blood of a goat. (Genesis 37:31-36)
  - 1. They brought Joseph's coat to their father for him to examine if it was indeed Joseph's.
    - a) Recognized instantly, he reasoned that a wild beast must have torn him to pieces and devoured him.
    - b) Jacob mourned for his son and refused to be comforted, *"I will still be mourning for my son when I die."*
    - c) The Ishmaelites (Midianites) sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and his captain of the guard.
      - 1) Note: Genesis 38 is a parenthesis with the Narrative about Judah and Tamar.
- (d) From house arrest to hard time (Genesis 39:1-23)
  - 1. Potiphar the Egyptian, Pharaoh's captain of the guard, became Joseph's master; he had purchased Joseph to work in his house.
    - a) Joseph was now a slave, but Yahweh was with him (guided, strengthened, inspired, and favored him).



- b) He worked with excellence and became very successful in his master's house.
  - 1) *"And whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,"* Colossians 3:23
  - 2) *"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* 1 Corinthians 10:31
- c) Potiphar discerned that the Lord was with Joseph and he acknowledged how Yahweh made everything he touched prosper.
- d) As Joseph continued to serve Potiphar, he gained more and more favor in his sight.
- e) Joseph was so trustworthy and competent that Potiphar promoted him to overseer of his house.
- f) Potiphar made Joseph the top authority over all household operations including becoming the steward of his personal possessions.
- g) Joseph was now running Potiphar's life; Yahweh blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake and everything he owned had the Lord's blessing on it.
- h) Potiphar trusted Joseph unconditionally; he designated authority to him over every aspect of his personal life; he concerned himself for nothing

unless it was right in front of him (like the food he was eating).

2. Joseph was also very handsome (his body and face).
  - a) As time passed, Potiphar's wife began to stare at Joseph with sexual desires.
  - b) Eventually she propositioned him to have sex with her, but he refused.
  - c) Joseph explained to her that...
    - 1) Her husband Potiphar trusted him with his entire personal life.
    - 2) No one in the house had more authority.
    - 3) The one thing he had no right to touch was his master's wife.
    - 4) He could never do something so wicked to his master, **nor sin against God**.
      - a. Note David's understanding that **his sin with Bathsheba was against Yahweh**: *"Against You, and You only, I have sinned."* Psalms 51:4
3. She persisted day after day to proposition Joseph:
  - a) He consistently refused to have sex with her.
  - b) But, one day when Joseph was alone in the house working, she cornered him and grabbed his outer garment; she belligerently insisted they have sex.

- c) Joseph bolted from the house, but she was able to snatch his garment as he ran away.
  - d) In her humiliation she decided to destroy Joseph.
  - e) With his garment in hand, she summoned men of her house to falsely accuse Joseph of attempted rape (another instance when Joseph's coat became his undoing)...
- 1) *"My husband brought this Hebrew into our house to serve us and instead he just mocks us. He tried to force me to have sex with him, but when I screamed he fled. In utter panic, he failed to take his outer garment with him."*
4. She held the garment until Potiphar came home.
    - a) She showed her husband the garment and told her made-up story (to hide her infidelity).
    - b) Potiphar was enraged; he tossed Joseph into the prison where the king's prisoners were confined.
  5. And Joseph was there in the prison...
    - a) But again, Yahweh was with Joseph (guided, strengthened, inspired, and favored him) and showed him mercy; He gave him favor in the sight of the prison warden.

- b) Like Potiphar had granted Joseph all authority, the warden committed every prisoner into Joseph's hand; every aspect of prison life came under Joseph's authority.
- c) Like Potiphar, the warden was so confident in him, he had no concern for anything Joseph managed.
- d) This of course was because again Yahweh was with him; and whatever he touched, God made prosper.

## INCORPORATING BROTHERLY AFFECTION

### 3. Adding Brotherly Affection to Godliness

#### A. What does it mean to add Brotherly Affection to Godliness?

- (1) You must prefer others over yourself!
  - (a) Add to your faith:
    - 1. "For this very reason you are required to do your part. **Make every effort to** add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; **add to godliness, brotherly affection;** and add to brotherly affection, love." 2 Peter 1:5-7
    - 2. The order is as important as the steps: **add to godliness, brotherly affection...**

- a) **Godliness (Step 5):** To be godly means you have the sincere desire to align every thought and action with God's will, and that you willingly submit your human spirit to the Holy Spirit!
- b) **Brotherly Affection (Step 6):** Be kind to and prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!
  - 1) **From our Introduction:** *And that is how a disciple of Christ becomes an effective minister of reconciliation—one who readily imparts God's grace. His relentless pursuit of godliness has crafted him into a man whose surrendered life is poured out in sacrifice for the priorities of others. He is a beacon of brotherly affection who exudes kindness, a true disciple of Christ recognized by the love he shares. He imitates the character of Christ, and that is the constant meditation of his heart—to look more and more like Christ by how he loves. Consider...*
    - a. It's never been about you!
    - b. Christ did everything for us, not for Himself.
    - c. That is the model of how we should live.

- d. No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others.

(2) Brotherly Affection: preferring others

(a) The needs of others first!

- 1. “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. {10} **In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor prefer one another**, not lagging in **diligence**, fervent in **spirit**, **serving** the Lord, rejoicing in **hope**, **enduring** in troubles, continuing steadfastly in **prayer**, **contributing to the needs of the saints**, and **\*given to hospitality.**” Romans 12:9-13 WEBUS

- a) To prefer others is to honor them.
- b) That is the very nature of avoiding what is wicked and attaching to what is good.
- c) It is the best way to serve the Lord, to diligently and passionately live according to the Spirit.
- d) To focus on the needs of others (as Christ) is the source of hope in times of trials; in other words, at your time of greatest need, pray for someone else!
  - 1) “Above all things **have fervent love for one another**, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” *Be hospitable and without grumbling. As each*

***one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the various forms of God's grace.***" 1 Peter 4:8-10

2. \*Hospitality is particularly expected of those who exercise leadership in the church.
  - a) ***"An overseer must be blameless, happily married in a monogamous relationship, self-restrained, sober-minded, well-behaved, hospitable, and able to teach."*** 1 Timothy 3:2
3. Ancient Hospitality was not merely a farewell, but included making provision for the continuation of a guest's journey, "to send forth."
  - a) ***"I no longer have any work to do in this area, and having a great desire for many years to come to you, on my way to Spain I shall stop in Rome. I will visit with you and hope to be helped by you when I depart, if first I may enjoy your company for a while."*** Romans 15:23-24
4. And beware, you just might be entertaining angels!
  - a) ***"May brotherly love be a life-long endeavor. And along the way don't forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing you may unwittingly entertain an angel."*** Hebrews 13:1-2

(b) To consider others first is EVERYTHING! *“May brotherly love be a life-long endeavor.”*

1. *“If therefore there is any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassion, make my joy full by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; {3} **doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, each counting others better than himself;** {4} each of you **not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.** Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, didn’t consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, **but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant**, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross.”* Philippians 2:1-8 WEBUS

- a) If there is anything you can consider loving, spiritual, merciful, and compassionate...
- b) If there is anything that brings the Lord joy and demonstrates His love and how He thinks...



c) **It's this...** consider others before you consider yourself; look for their interest before you look out for your own...

(c) Yes, loving others is EVERYTHING!

1. **"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ...**

Every commandment can be **summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

**\*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."** Romans 13:8-10

a) Love does no harm...

1) *"'You **shall not hate your brother** in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke him**, and \*not stand by and watch him sin. That would be vengeful as if you have a grudge against him. Instead, **love your neighbor as yourself**."* Leviticus 19:17-18

**B. Object Lesson: Brotherly Affection:** to be kind to and prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!

(1) The Backstory: More Dreams and Joseph's Rise to Power  
(Genesis 40-47, 50)

(a) The Prisoners' Dreams (Genesis 40:1-23)

1. Pharaoh became angry with his two officers, the chief butler and chief baker because they offended him.

- a) He imprisoned them under Potiphar's domain and they were placed in the same area of confinement as Joseph.
  - b) Joseph was charged serving them while in custody.
2. While in prison, each man had a dream on the same night, each dream with its own interpretation.
- a) In the morning Joseph noticed that each of them appeared sad and inquired why.
  - b) They explained about having the dreams, but were frustrated with no one to interpret them.
  - c) Joseph assured them that all interpretations belong to God and he asked them to recount their dreams.
3. The chief butler's dream:
- a) He saw a vine with three branches.
  - b) The branches were filled with buds, blossoms, and clusters of ripe grapes.
  - c) He saw Pharaoh's cup in his hand and that he took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and then he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.
  - d) Joseph's interpretation:
    - 1) The three branches are three days.
    - 2) In three days Pharaoh will **lift up** your head and restore you to your position as chief butler.

- 3) You will again put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, as in the past when you were his chief butler.
- e) Joseph makes a simple request of the butler;  
*"Remember me when you are restored."*
  - 1) Please show kindness by mentioning his circumstance to Pharaoh, to help get him released from Prison.
  - 2) He explained to the butler how he was stolen from his Hebrew homeland; and also how he had literally done nothing wrong to deserve being imprisoned in this dungeon. (It was all false allegations.)
4. The chief baker saw that Joseph's interpretation was desirable, so he too described his dream:
  - a) There were three white baskets on his head.
  - b) In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh.
  - c) The birds ate them from out of the basket.
  - d) Joseph's interpretation:
    - 1) The three baskets are three days.
    - 2) Within three days Pharaoh will **lift off** your head and hang you on a tree.
    - 3) Birds will eat your flesh.

5. On Pharaoh's birthday three days later...
    - a) Pharaoh's had a party for all his servants.
    - b) He **lifted up** the head of the chief butler and restored his position; he again was in charge of the cup in Pharaoh's hand.
    - c) He **lifted off** the head of the chief baker.
    - d) He hanged him as Joseph had interpreted.
  6. However, the chief butler did not remember Joseph.
- (b) Pharaoh's Dreams (Genesis 41:1-36)
1. Two full years after the butler forgot about Joseph in prison, Pharaoh had two dreams...
  2. Pharaoh's First Dream:
    - a) He was standing by the river when seven fine looking, well-fed cows emerged from the water and began feeding in the meadow.
    - b) Then seven ugly and gaunt cows emerged and stood by the other cows on the riverbank.
    - c) Suddenly the ugly and gaunt cows devoured the seven fine looking and well-fed cows.
    - d) Then Pharaoh awoke!
  3. Pharaoh's Second Dream:
    - a) He slept and dreamed a second time.

- b) Seven heads of grain sprang up on one stalk, plump and good.
  - c) Then seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.
  - d) The seven thin heads devoured the seven plump heads.
  - e) Then Pharaoh awoke.
4. In the morning Pharaoh's spirit was troubled:
- a) He sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt and told them his dreams.
  - b) No one could interpret them for Pharaoh.
5. Then the chief butler remembered Joseph:
- a) He told Pharaoh about meeting Potiphar's servant, a young Hebrew man named Joseph, when he and the baker were imprisoned.
  - b) He admitted to Pharaoh how he had neglected to speak on Joseph's behalf after he was released.
  - c) He explained how Joseph interpreted each of their dreams from the same night, and how Joseph's interpretation was fulfilled to the letter.
- 1) Pharaoh restored me to my office, and he hanged the baker.
6. Pharaoh sent for Joseph...

- a) They brought him quickly before Pharaoh, but not before a shave and a change of clothes.
  - b) Pharaoh informed Joseph that he's had dreams that no one has been able to interpret.
  - c) Pharaoh also tells Joseph he's heard he can understand and interpret dreams.
  - d) Joseph informs Pharaoh that the credit for his ability to interpret is not his own, but God's. *"God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."*
7. Then Pharaoh described both dreams to Joseph that no one has yet interpreted:
- a) Here he adds one detail: *After the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the fat cows, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for **they were just as ugly as at the beginning.***
8. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams:
- a) The two dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same.
  - b) God is showing Pharaoh what He is about to do.
    - 1) The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain are symbolic of seven good years of abundance.

- 2) The seven ugly cows and the seven empty heads of grain blighted by the east wind are symbolic of seven bad years of famine.
- c) God is showing Pharaoh what He's about to do.
  - 1) Seven years of great plenty will come to Egypt.
  - 2) Then seven years of severe famine will follow and all the plenty will be forgotten, as the famine will deplete the land.
  - 3) The dream was repeated twice because it is an absolute certainty and it will begin soon!
9. Joseph's counsel:
  - a) Let Pharaoh select **a discerning and wise man**, and set him over the land of Egypt.
  - b) Let that **discerning and wise man** appoint officers to collect one-fifth of the grain of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years.
  - c) Store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep the food in the cities.
  - d) <sup>(1)</sup>**That food shall be a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine, so Egypt does not perish during the famine.**
- (c) Joseph's Rise to Power: He is now 30, 13 years after he was sold into slavery by his brothers. (Genesis 41:37-46)

1. Joseph's advice seemed excellent to Pharaoh...
  - a) Pharaoh said to his servants...
    - 1) *"Can we find such a one as this, a man **in whom is the Spirit of God?**"*
  - b) Pharaoh said to Joseph...
    - 1) *"Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one <sup>(2)</sup>**as discerning and wise as you.** <sup>(3)</sup>**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."*
  - c) Y'shua's prophetic question about His second coming...
    - 1) *"Who then is a <sup>(2)</sup>**faithful and wise servant,** whom his master made <sup>(3)</sup>**ruler over his household, to <sup>(1)</sup>give them food in due season?** Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing." Matthew 24:45-46*
2. Pharaoh gives Joseph all the power and authority!
  - a) Pharaoh said to Joseph...
    - 1) *"I am Pharaoh, I've set you over all the land of Egypt. Without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot throughout the land."*



- b) Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand.
  - c) He clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.
  - d) He had Joseph ride in the second chariot and had the people bow to him.
  - e) Pharaoh called Joseph's name \*Zaphnath-Paaneah.
    - 1) Understood to mean **"God speaks, He lives"** or **"God has spoken, and He lives"**.
    - 2) Also interpreted as **"revealer of secrets"** or **"the man to whom secrets are revealed."**
  - f) Pharaoh gave Joseph Asenath as a wife, the daughter of Poti-Pherah, priest of On.
  - g) Joseph departed from Pharaoh and began his assignment throughout Egypt.
- (d) Joseph *"gives them food in due season."* (Genesis 41:37-57)

#### 1. Seven Years of Abundance

- a) Joseph gathered all the excess food for seven years.
- b) He stored in every city the food from the surrounding fields.

- c) He gathered so much grain that it appeared like **\*the sand of the sea**; he eventually stopped counting it as it was immeasurable.
- d) **Prophetic Jewels:**
  - 1) Joseph's plan will eventually save Israel and Abraham was promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand of the sea in Genesis 22:17.
  - 2) Following his faithful willingness to offer Isaac on the altar, Yahweh says, *"I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your offspring greatly like the stars of the heavens, **and like the sand which is on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the gate of his enemies.**"*
  - 3) Had Joseph never been sold into slavery and used by God to store grain as numerous as **the sand of the sea** (grain that eventually ensured Israel's survival), then Abraham's descendants would not have multiplied **like the sand on the seashore**, nor would Israel have **entered the land of Egypt!**
- e) Joseph was blessed with two sons during the seven years of abundance.

- 1) Firstborn Manasseh: *"God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."*
- 2) Second born Ephraim: *"God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."*

## 2. Seven Years of Famine

- a) The seven years of abundance ended and the seven years of famine began.
  - b) Famine ravaged all nations, but in Egypt there was still bread.
  - c) The people of Egypt were famished and cried to Pharaoh for bread.
  - d) Pharaoh told every Egyptian, *"Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."*
  - e) Joseph opened the storehouses and sold food to the Egyptians.
  - f) Even the surrounding nations had to come to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain.
- (2) The Story: Joseph toys with his own emotions and then with his brothers (READ Genesis 42-44)
- (a) There is no food in Canaan...
    1. Joseph's ten brother's go to Egypt to seek food.  
(Genesis 42)

- a) Joseph does not know that his mother had a second son, Benjamin.
- 2. Joseph's brother's leave with food, but are forced to return with Benjamin to prove he is real. (Genesis 43)
  - a) Simeon was held hostage until their return.
- 3. Joseph's Cup (Genesis 44)
  - a) After meeting Benjamin, and before his brothers depart with more grain for their people in Canaan, Joseph hides his golden chalice in Benjamin's grain bag as a scheme to frighten his brothers.
  - b) It is here we see Judah step up to sacrifice himself for Benjamin and to save his father Jacob from even more grief:
    - 1) *"Now therefore, please let your servant stay instead of the boy, my Lord's slave; and let the boy go up with his brothers." Genesis 44:33*  
WEBUS
- (3) The Story: Two years into the famine, Joseph had both the means and the motive to enact revenge against his brothers. **Did he demonstrate brotherly affection or discard it?** (Genesis 45)
  - (a) The Reveal (Genesis 45:1-4)

1. Judah's change of heart and display of sacrifice is too much for Joseph to resist any further.
  - a) He could not restrain himself; he cleared the room to make himself known to his brothers.
  - b) He wept so loud that it was heard everywhere.
  - c) He said to his brothers, *"I am Joseph; does my father still live?"*
  - d) His brothers were in utter shock and couldn't speak; they were dismayed by his presence.
  - e) Joseph pulled them close and whispered, *"I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."*
- (b) Joseph's godly perspective leading to brotherly affection! (Genesis 45:5-8)
  1. Don't be horrified because you sold me; God sent me ahead of you to preserve your lives (and the world).
  2. It's been two years since the famine began and there are still five years coming.
  3. So, God used you to send me to Egypt to save your lives and to preserve your (Israel's) future generations by this great act of deliverance.
  4. You see, it was not you who sent me here, but God.

5. And in so doing, He also put me in a position to advise Pharaoh as a good father would, and to be the ruler in his house and throughout the land of Egypt.
- (c) "Go tell my father!" (Genesis 45:9-15)
1. Thus says your son Joseph...
    - a) God has made me lord of Egypt.
    - b) Come right away to be near me.
    - c) You shall dwell in the land of Goshen.
    - d) Bring the entire family and all the flocks and herds.
    - e) I will provide bread so you can survive the famine.
    - f) It is really me, Joseph. Tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen.
  2. He embraced Benjamin and they wept together.
    - a) He also kissed all his brothers and wept over them.
    - b) Then they spent some time catching up.
- (d) The whole report that "Joseph's brothers had come." pleased Pharaoh. (Genesis 45:16-24)
1. Pharaoh provided everything needed for Joseph's brothers to return home to bring their family to Egypt.
    - a) He promised them the best of the land of Egypt.
    - b) Joseph gave them all the provisions for their journey and extra to Benjamin.

- c) He sent his brothers with this blessing, *“See that you do not become troubled along the way.”*
- (e) Joseph is alive (Genesis 45:25-28)
  - 1. Joseph’s brothers arrived back in Canaan...
    - a) They told their father Jacob, *“Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all of Egypt.”*
    - b) Jacob’s heart skipped a beat in disbelief.
    - c) But they told him everything Joseph said and showed him all the provisions Joseph sent, and Jacob came alive.
    - d) He was fully convinced, *“Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”*
- (f) Jacob’s Journey to Egypt (Genesis 46)
  - 1. God spoke to Israel in a vision, *“Do not fear to go down to Egypt, for **I will make of you a great nation there.** I will go down with you to Egypt, **and I will also surely bring you up again;** and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.”* Genesis 46:1-4
    - a) Jacob departed with his possession and all those traveling with him are named by family, seventy persons in all. (Genesis 46:5-25)
    - b) Then Jacob settled in Goshen. (Genesis 46:28-34)

(g) Joseph told Pharaoh that his father and family had arrived. (Genesis 47:1-12)

1. They find complete favor with Pharaoh in Egypt!

- a) Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land (Goshen).
- b) Jacob was now one hundred and thirty years old and he blessed Pharaoh.
- c) Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families.

(h) Joseph deals with the famine and redeems the world!  
(Genesis 47:13-26)

1. The famine continued and there was no bread, so Joseph had to distribute grain to the people.

- a) First the people paid for the grain with their money and Joseph brought it into Pharaoh's treasury.
- b) When the people had no more money to purchase grain, Joseph required they trade their livestock for bread.
- c) When their livestock was gone the people offered themselves and their land.
- d) Joseph bought all the land in Egypt and it became Pharaoh's.



- e) And he supplied seed for the people who would farm the land after the famine and bring one fifth of its produce to Pharaoh forever.
- f) Then Joseph said to the people, *“Indeed I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh.”*
- g) **The people were grateful to Pharaoh for saving their lives and were happy to have surrendered everything to Him.**
  - 1) *“You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of **my lord**, and we will be Pharaoh’s servants.”*
  - 2) This is the precise imagery of what happens when we surrender our lives to **the Lord**.
- h) And it is precisely how God will redeem the world through us (as Joseph did) before He returns.
  - 1) *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.**”* Matthew 24:45-46
- i) Note Genesis 48-50:14
  - a) Jacob blesses his sons. (Genesis 48)
  - b) Jacob’s last words. (Genesis 49:1-28)

c) Jacob dies. (Genesis 49:29-33)

d) Jacob is buried and mourned. (Genesis 50:1-14)

(4) The Final Word: What you meant for evil, God used for good! (Genesis 50:15-26)

(a) Fear of Retaliation (Genesis 50:15-18)

1. Joseph's brothers feared that because their father was dead... *"Perhaps Joseph will come to hate us, and may actually retaliate against us for all the evil we did to him."*

a) So they told Joseph... before dad died, he asked us to request something of you on his behalf:

1) *"I beg you to please forgive your brothers for their evil sin against you."* **So, please forgive us!**

b) Joseph wept and his brothers committed to his service.

(b) Do not be afraid! (Genesis 50:19-21)

1. Joseph assured his brother with brotherly affection...

a) Don't be afraid; I'm exactly where God wants me.

b) What you meant for evil against me, God meant for good.

c) He did it all to bring about what we see here today during the famine... it was God's way to save the lives of so many people.

- d) **Quintessential Brotherly Affection:** *Joseph comforted them, spoke kindly to them, and reassured their safety and provision.*
- (c) The Death of Joseph (Genesis 50:22-26)
  - 1. Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.
  - 2. He saw Ephraim's children to the third generation.
  - 3. Joseph died at one hundred and ten years old.
- (5) **Conclusion:** to Incorporate or Discard Brotherly Affection
  - (a) **Brotherly Affection discarded:** Genesis 37:12-36
    - 1. Joseph's brothers said...
      - a) *"Look, this dreamer is coming! Let's kill him and cast him into some pit. We'll say a wild beast devoured him. We shall see what comes of his dreams!"*
    - 2. Judah made a suggestion...
      - a) *"We can't ignore that fact that he is our brother, and there's no profit in killing him and hiding his blood. It would, however, be beneficial in a few ways if we sell him instead. We can make some cash and 'keep our hands clean' at the same time."*
    - 3. His brothers listened, pulled Joseph up out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

(b) **Outcome of discarding Brotherly Affection:** Genesis 39:1-23

1. Potiphar's wife kept insisting on having sex with Joseph and he consistently refused.
2. In her humiliation she decided to destroy Joseph, so with his garment in hand she summoned men of her house and accused Joseph of trying to rape her...
  - a) *"My husband brought this Hebrew into our house to serve us and instead he just mocks us. He tried to force me to have sex with him, but when I screamed he fled in a panic and neglected to take his garment on the way out."*
3. She showed her husband the garment and told her made-up story (to hide her infidelity).
4. Potiphar was enraged and he tossed Joseph into the prison where the king's prisoners were confined.

(c) **Brotherly Affection incorporated:** Genesis 45:1-8

1. Joseph reveals his identity...
  - a) *"I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."*
2. Joseph recognizes God's greater plan...
  - a) *"Don't be horrified because you sold me; God sent me ahead of you to preserve your lives."*

- b) *“God used you to send me to Egypt to save your lives and to preserve your (Israel’s) future generations by this great act of deliverance.”*
- c) *“You see, it was not you who sent me here, but God.”*

(d) **Outcome of incorporating Brotherly Affection:** Genesis 50:15-26

1. Joseph’s brothers feared that because their father was dead...
  - a) *“Joseph will come to hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.”*
2. So they told Joseph... before dad died, he ask us to request something of you on his behalf...
  - a) *“I beg you to please forgive your brothers for their evil sin against you.” **So, please forgive us!***
3. Joseph assured them...
  - a) *“Don’t t be afraid, I’m exactly where God wants.”*
  - b) *“What you meant for evil against me, God meant for good.”*
  - c) *“He did it all to bring about what we see here today during the famine... it was God’s way to save the lives of so many people.”*

- d) **Quintessential Brotherly Affection:** *Joseph comforted them, spoke kindly to them, and reassured their safety and provision. (Gen. 50:21)*

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Read the introduction three times.

- A. Define Brotherly Affection.
- B. Why does Brotherly Affection follow Godliness as the next step in the practice of your faith?

### 2. Personal Object Lesson:

- A. Describe a time in your life when you preferred someone else over yourself, even when it was extremely difficult. What was the outcome?
- B. Describe a time in your life when you preferred yourself in a selfish way, even when you were badly needed. What was the outcome?

### 3. Transformation:

- A. What did you or will you do to correct your error in discussion point 2B?
- B. What will you do in the future to ensure you do not repeat the same mistake?
- C. Assessment: Rate yourself. Do you more often prefer the needs of others or your own needs? Explain your answer.