

“Bloom Where You Are Planted”

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. ² The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. ³ Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and *how* the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. ⁵ It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD’S blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. ⁶ So he left everything he owned in Joseph’s charge; and with him *there* he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.” (Genesis 39:1-6a)

“He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:3)

Joseph exhibited practically what Psalm 1:3 declared. He was a blessed man. Although he didn’t necessarily choose his surroundings, he didn’t allow them to limit his potential either. He was not a victim to his environment. He trusted God and refused to allow his circumstances to define who he really was. We can also succeed regardless of where we are at if we trust God the way Joseph did. Ask yourself some soul-searching questions like the ones below and see if you are living up to your true God-given potential.

1. *Do I just go with the status quo or am I hungry for more?*

The Bible talks a lot about planting and harvesting (Gen. 8:22, Gal. 6:7). It can be applied in many ways. There is an unlimited potential inside of a seed. For example, inside every acorn is a great forest. However, if it is never planted, it will never reach its potential. Many times we don’t choose where we are planted in life, but we can choose whether or not we will be fruitful.

Wherever you are planted, find the place of living waters in your life. The Lord is with you there. A great harvest of success awaits those who fully apply themselves right where they are. “The only one who can stop you from becoming the person God intended you to be – is you.” (JM)

2. *Do I shrink back from the commitment required to reach my potential?* It is easy to let others carry us through life. It seems there are always plenty of folks willing to keep the masses satisfied with the “curse of normalcy.” However, you are called for more than this. You are called to be “firmly planted.” You will never have success in anything you do not put your roots down into.

Do you feel the stirrings of discontentment with being average? Does your heart hunger for more than this? To be more than average requires commitment. It demands you dig down deep and tap into the streams of living water God has provided right where He has placed you. It requires a vision of fruitfulness. Begin to see yourself as successful where you are. Ask yourself, “How can I be truly effective where I am now?” God will show you the ways this can happen.

3. *Do I get back up when I am knocked down?* In the Army we used to say, “No pain; no gain.” Everyone suffers setbacks and knock downs. When asked what it takes to be a winner, World Heavyweight Champ Jim Corbett said, “just fight one more round.” Shake off the modern blight of apathy and get back the spirit of the champion. Don’t quit. Don’t stall. Keep pressing forward. You can see results at any level. You are here to make a real difference in this life. God has great plans for you and can give you success at any station if you dig-in the right way. Only the trees with deep roots can withstand the strong winds.

God has plans to accomplish through you right where you are that will not happen except through you. Each and every life is really that important. You are special and unique. He has a tailor-made plan for you to succeed right where He has planted you. Will you get back up or lay there on the mat? The choice is yours.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we bring the needs of our local government before You today and ask You to bless our city. Bless our mayor, his staff, and their families. We pray for Your protection to cover all of them and their families. We ask You to continually send down upon those who serve in this city, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices or positions to promote the well-being of all people. We pray for them to receive continually the wisdom of God, to act in obedience to it, and for the favor of God to be active in their lives. We ask they will find Your peace and direction each day, and for each of them to act and lead according to Your Word. We pray for them to be unified in righteousness and Godly purpose for the sake of our community. Help them each to operate with the highest levels of proficiency, integrity, competence and courage. Thank You, Father, for hearing our prayers that are in accordance to Your will. We believe we receive the answers we need now from Your benevolent hand, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.