

Over the Walls
Sunday July 1, 2018

Genesis 49:22-24 “Joseph is a fruitful bough (vine), even a fruitful bough by a well (spring); whose branches run over the wall: ²³ The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. ²⁴ But his bow remained in strength ,And the arms of his hands were ^[a]made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),”

Genesis 49:22 Amplified “Joseph is a fruitful bough (a main branch of the vine), A fruitful bough by a spring (a well, a fountain); Its branches run over the wall [influencing others].

Everyone has walls and barriers they have to deal with in their life.

Life is not always fair.

You have to decide how you are going to respond to the tough times in your life.

You will have problems and hurts that will make you better or bitter. You will either grow up or give up. You can become who God wants you to be or your heart can become hard.

Are You Ready to Thrive and Flourish Beyond the Walls?

We can choose to let the circumstances or what other people have done to us imprison us behind those walls or... we can decide to be like Joseph whose branches reached over the walls and he was no longer contained by the invisible fences or the visible fences in his life.

We have to make a decision today... no more living behind the walls of my past , the walls of my pain, the walls of what people have done to me or said.

We have to leave behind the victim mentality. We are only a victim if we believe we are confined to stay that way the rest of our life.

We are called to live beyond that pain, beyond what that person did to us, beyond what life has brought you.

“A fruitful vine by a well.”

If you want to thrive beyond the walls... you have to live by the well.

The well is God's word. The well is the Holy Spirit. The well is the church. The well is the presence of God. The well is God's promises. If you will stay by the well— then you are going to thrive beyond the walls...

Dwell by the Well...

When you dwell by the well...you can climb over the walls...

A pure water source was necessary to sustain life...

Bitterness will turn pure water to poison...

You poison your own wells by living in hurt and bitterness...

When you begin living beyond the wells you will come to understand why you should expect God's favor to manifest uncommon blessings in your life.

Ezekiel 47:1,9 “Then he brought me back to the door of the ^[a]temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.

⁹ And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever ^[c]the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

3 SECRETS OF FRUITFULNESS IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

1. Fellowship... with God... (AKA...dwell by the well)

- Joseph had an unbroken fellowship with God. His circumstances kept changing but his relationship with God was constant. He had fellowship with God when he was a favored son in his father's house. God communicated with him through dreams revealing his future. He grew up with a vision about his life and future. Soon the circumstances changed in his life. He became a slave in Potiphar's house and later a prisoner in jail. But his fellowship with God was unaffected. God was with him all the time. He could still interpret dreams in the prison. He was still using his spiritual gifts in spite of adverse circumstances. His unbroken fellowship with God was a powerful secret of his fruitfulness.
- Joseph was filled with the Spirit of God. There was a supernatural dimension to his life.

- Pharaoh discerned this anointing upon the life of Joseph and asked his servants ‘Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the spirit of God is?’
- This spirit filled life helped Joseph accomplish great things in his life. He had a supernatural wisdom and understanding in the administration of his responsibilities.
- The spirit filled life helped Joseph to lead a blessed and fruitful life over the walls...

2. Stewardship...

- He did not give up his faithfulness as a result of his bitter experience.
- He did not question whether it was worth being faithful after his faithfulness in Potiphar's house only landed him in prison.
- His faithfulness in all his responsibilities was a powerful secret of his fruitfulness.

3. Forgiveness

- Joseph kept a forgiving heart. He had no bitterness or resentment against those who harmed him.
- His brothers had caused untold suffering in his life.
- Potiphar's wife had falsely accused him.
- Potiphar sent him to prison without a reasonable enquiry.
- But...He was not tied down by a spirit of anger and vengeance. His forgiving nature was a powerful secret of his fruitfulness.