

Dream Again | Joy, Again (Part 1)

“I don’t know how to stop anxiety. Maybe this is what happens when you grow up...you feel less joy.”

—Joy, *Inside Out 2*

Regardless of what your childhood joy memories are, why were they ‘joy’ memories? I would like to propose that two of the elements involved were:

1. High Innocence
2. Low Responsibility

What happened to Joseph during these experiences?

1. Loss of innocence
2. Increase of responsibility

IF Joy is High Innocence and Low Responsibility, then what do you do?

1. Have a Peter-Pan mindset (never grow up)
2. Go through a mid-life crisis (run from responsibility)
3. Live for ‘Disney and Christmas’ moments (things that bring the childhood memories of a simpler time)

NOSTALGIA isn’t good or bad

NOSTALGIA isn’t JOY

Genesis 45 NLT

*1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was.
2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.*

3 “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them.

4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

9 “Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! 10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. 11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.’”

12 Then Joseph added, “Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! 13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly.” 14 **Weeping with joy**, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. 15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

How to experience Joy, Again:

1) Embrace your emotions, especially weeping (v. 2)

2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

Psalm 126:5

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy

Tears are seeds of joy

When you turn off your tears you turn off the sowing of seeds of joy

2) Embrace people (v. 4)

4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer.

“There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.” — C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

3) Release hurt & revenge (v. 5a)

And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors.

Next-level forgiveness

1. Forgiving people before they even ask
2. Helping people forgive themselves
3. Blessing the people who hurt you

4) Embrace the sovereignty of God in your situation (v. 5b)

It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives

5) Embrace the responsibility of your assignment while releasing the ultimate responsibility to the Lord (v. 8)

8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt

The key to JOY AGAIN is knowing what to RELEASE and knowing what to EMBRACE

Most people try to release what they should embrace and embrace what they should release

We can want to:

- Release responsibility
- Embrace revenge

When we need to:

- Release the hurt
- Embrace the responsibility

Dream Again | Letting Go of Revenge

Genesis 30:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Romans 9:13-15

Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 15 For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,

And I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

1. Why God is Sovereign

2. God is sovereign in Forgiveness

Our choices partnered with God’s sovereignty have a generational impact.

God will give you the strength to forgive if you are willing to let go.

3. God Is Sovereign in Mercy and Salvation

Romans 9:22-23

22 What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory

Joel 2:13

“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Dream Again | Joy, Again Part 2

Genesis 48

1 After this, Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is ill.” So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 And it was told to Jacob, “Your son Joseph has come to you.” Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed. 3 And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, 4 and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’ 5 And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. 6 And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

7 As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”

8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, “Who are these?” 9 Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.”

Genesis 41:51

Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my pain of my father's house.”

Genesis 41:52

The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

Genesis 48

And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. 11 And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." 12 Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.

Genesis 35:18

As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

Ben-Oni means son of my trouble

Benjamin means son of my right hand

Genesis 48

14 And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). 15 And he blessed Joseph and said,

*"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,*

16

*the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;
and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."*

17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." 19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall

be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude[d] of nations.” 20 So he blessed them that day, saying,

*“By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying,
‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’”*

Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. 21 Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.”

We serve a God who is STILL CROSSING HIS ARMS!

2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

1 Corinthians 1:27

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Psalms 16

*11 You make known to me the path of life
In your presence is fullness of joy;
At your right hand are pleasures forevermore*

Dream Again | The Rest of Recompense

It's important to understand the difference between release, restoration, and recompense.

1. Release- forgave his brothers, Potiphar, baker, cupbearer
2. Restoration- he gets his coat back (that was the only thing that he lost)
3. Recompense- he steps into the fullness of his destiny as the second in command of all of Egypt and uses his position and power to save lives

Isaiah 61 (Year of Jubilee)

v. 8

*For I the Lord love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.*

v. 1c

to proclaim FREEDOM for the captives (Release)

v. 2a

to proclaim the year of the Lord's FAVOR (Recompense)

God's cycles (spirals) of rest, restoration, and recompense:

1. Sabbath- day of rest, no work, every 7th day
2. Shmita- Year of rest, no planting or harvesting, every 7th year
3. Jubilee- Rest every 50th year (7, 7's)

3 aspects of Jubilee (Leviticus 25):

1. Debts were cancelled
2. Liberation of slaves and indentured servants

3. Land returned to original family owners

“People expect us to be busy, overworked. It’s become a status symbol in our society—if we are busy, we’re important; if we’re not busy, we’re almost embarrassed to admit it.”

—Steven Covey, *First Things First*

Leviticus 25:20-21

If if you say, “What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop? I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.

You can’t work for RECOMPENSE

When it comes to RECOMPENSE, many of us aren’t RECEIVING because we’re not RESTING

Principle of Sabbath: You rest, God works

Your lack of rest is blocking your recompense in the same way that a lack of tithe blocks financial blessing.

They both have to do with trust.

There is an element of recompense that can only be received during rest.

The REST of Recompense:

1. JOY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MOURNING (v. 3)

*to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;*

2. REBUILD WHAT HAS BEEN RUINED (v. 4)

Isaiah 61:4

*They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.*

3. A DOUBLE PORTION WHERE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SHAME (v. 7)

Isaiah 61:7

*Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.*

Dream Again | The Principles of Release & Recompense

Psalm 126

*1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.*

*2 Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”*

*3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.*

*4 Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.*

*5 Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.*

*6 Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.*

Joseph faced test after test:

1. Pit- Can you overcome rejection of people?
2. Potipher's House- Can you steward someone else's dream? Can you flee from temptation?
3. Prison

Genesis 40

1 Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. 2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.

4 The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

5 And one night they both dreamed

The PIT and the PRISON are different

The PRISON will trigger the same emotions as the PIT

If you don't understand the difference, you'll become even more discouraged and think that you haven't made and PROGRESS (I'm right back where I started.)

Linear (up and to the right)

God often works in spirals

- *When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep (Proverbs 8:27)*
- Genesis 1:14- seasons, days, years
- The book of Numbers is written in a spiral pattern
- Many of the Psalms are written in a spiral pattern
- The world begins with a wedding in a garden (Genesis 1-3)
- The world will re-begin with a wedding in a garden (Revelation 21-22)

PIT

REJECTION: Revenge or Release

POTIPHER

PRISON REMEMBER: Re-live or Recompense

What do I do when I'm facing "whispers and shadows":

1. Don't be caught off guard. This is normal.
2. Issue a re-release
3. Step into recompense

Release v. Recompense

Isaiah 61:8

For I the Lord love justice

I hate robbery and wrong

I will faithfully give them their recompense

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them

Release- you choose to forgive; let go of bitterness, offense, and revenge

Restoration- back to where you started

Recompense- payback for physical and emotional loss, with interest

Genesis 40:5-8

5 And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, “Why are your faces downcast today?” 8 They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”