

---

# A CHANGE OF FOCUS

## I. A New Outlook

- a. New Year's Resolutions are all about change.
  - i. The most impactful change you can make is changing how you think.
  - ii. A true mindset change is thinking the way God wants us to think.
- b. To move forward in this new year, we have to let go of the past and focus on what God is doing in us.

## II. Joseph's Backstory

- a. Joseph was betrayed and sold into slavery by his brothers.
- b. Joseph didn't focus on past hurts, he moved forward in God's promise.
- c. **Philippians 3:13-14** (NIV) *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*
  - i. You can't change the past, but we can change the meaning of the past. – Warren Wiersbe
  - ii. The more you focus on God's kingdom, the more you live out God's kingdom right now.
  - iii. Fill your mind with what God says instead of what others have done.

## III. Joseph's Victory

- a. God was with Joseph and promoted him to the top leadership of Egypt.
- b. **Genesis 41:51-52** (NIV), *"Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, 'It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.' <sup>52</sup> The second son he named Ephraim and said, 'It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.'"*
  - i. God brought healing to Joseph in spite of the past.
  - ii. Joseph found healing without closure. You can be healed without an "I'm sorry."
- c. Letting go of the past is an act of faith. It's trusting that we don't have to live in the past because God can heal us.
- d. Joseph met his brothers in Egypt and used his power to forgive and not punish.

- i. **Genesis 50:20** (NIV), *“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*
  - 1. Changing your focus from the past to God enables you to see how God is at work.
  - 2. God can turn your greatest pain into your greatest victory.
- ii. **John 11:25** (NIV), *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’”*

#### **IV. Where is Your Focus for 2023?**

- a. You can’t make it to the palace by focusing on the pit.
- b. What happened in your past does not have to dictate your future. God can change, forgive, and renew your life.
- c. What could this new year look like if you shift your focus and change the way you think?