
NAVIGATING THROUGH A HARD SEASON
a mini devotional
NATASHA SMITH

CONTENTS

03 DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF GOD

Lessons from Joseph

06 GET TO JESUS

A Lesson from the Woman with an Issue

08 EYES OF FAITH

Lessons from Job



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DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF GOD

"YOU INTENDED TO HARM ME, BUT GOD INTENDED IT FOR GOOD TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT IS NOW BEING DONE, THE SAVING OF MANY LIVES." GENESIS 50:20 NIV



You intended to harm me but God intended it for Good!

These are the words of Joseph. Do you remember him?

He was the favored son of Jacob in the book of Genesis. The one with the coat of many colors.

From his story, we can say that Joseph went through quite a rough patch.

We can gather that he experienced a hard season. One that would span over 17 years.

Now from his story, we find that Joseph was disliked by his brothers.

He was thrown into a pit.
Sold into slavery.
Falsely accused of sexual assault.
And he was imprisoned.

All due to no fault of his own. Unless you count sharing his dreams, as a good enough reason for all of these bad things happening to him.

Joseph could have easily forgotten about God during these many years in a hard place.

Or he could have easily blamed God, as it was God who had given him the dreams that led to all of his misfortunes in the first place.

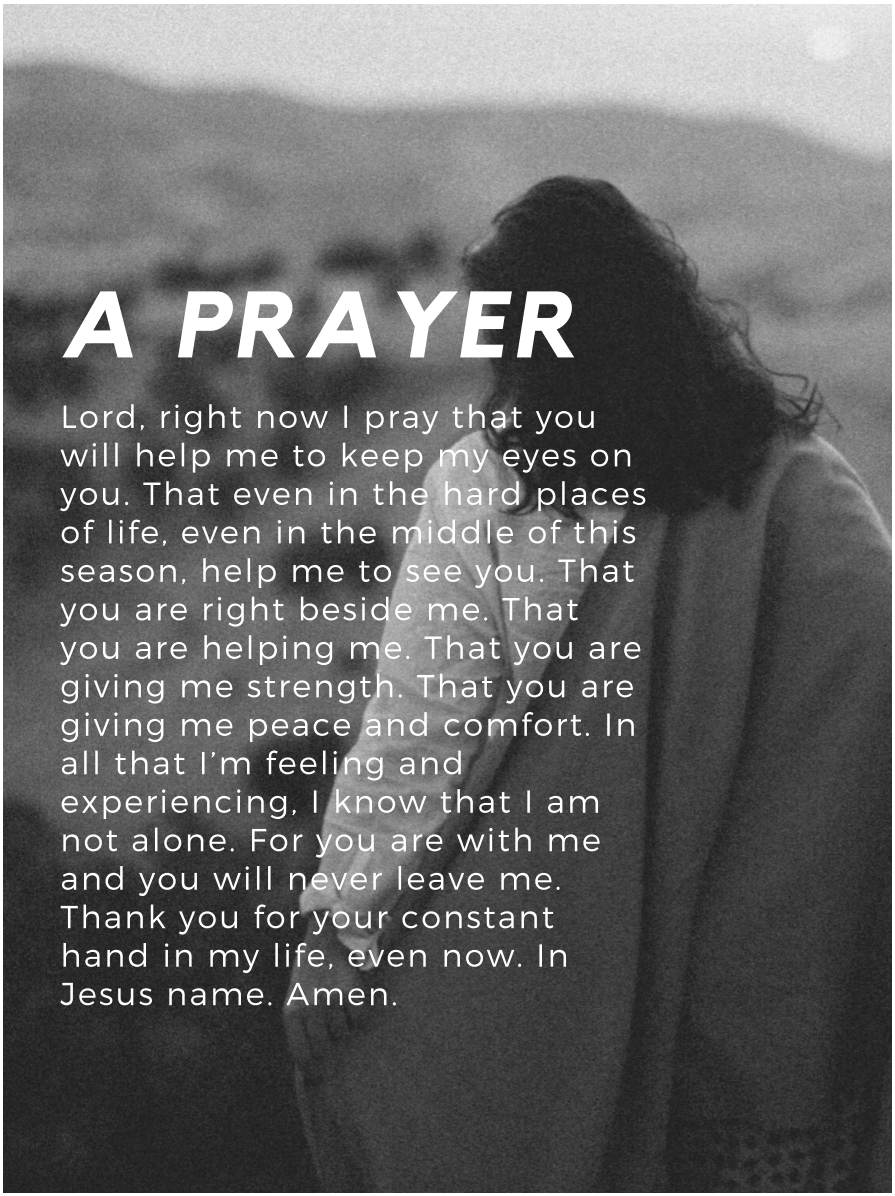
But Joseph didn't blame God. Joseph remembered God because in his words, he tells us that what the enemy meant for evil, God meant for good.

In hard times, it is easy to take our eyes off of Jesus and place them on our situation or circumstance. But may we look to Joseph for our example.

May we "be strong and courageous". Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV

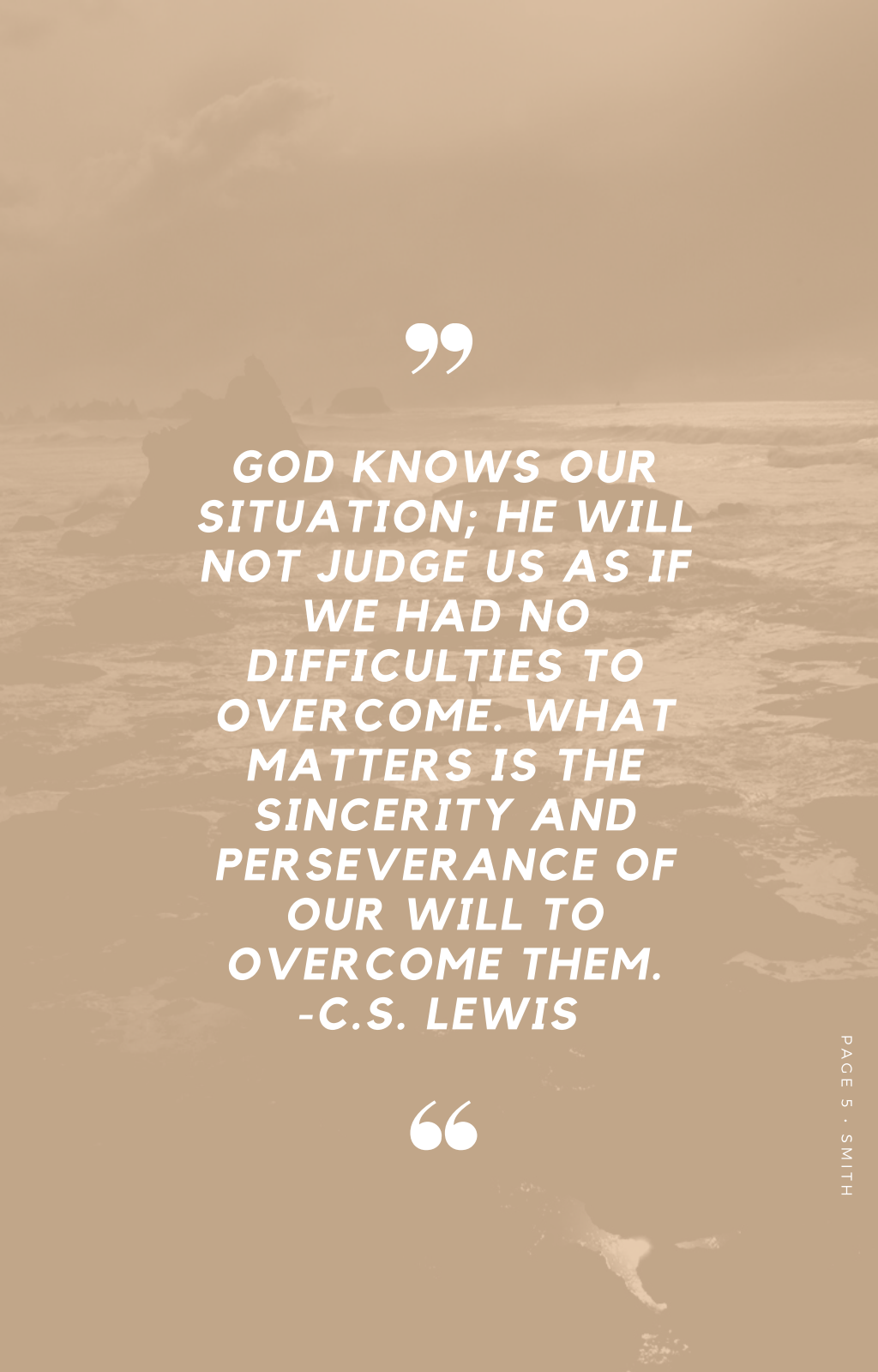
And in hard times may we always remember, to take heart because Jesus has overcome the world. John 16:33 NIV

So, then because Jesus has overcome, we can overcome.



A PRAYER

Lord, right now I pray that you will help me to keep my eyes on you. That even in the hard places of life, even in the middle of this season, help me to see you. That you are right beside me. That you are helping me. That you are giving me strength. That you are giving me peace and comfort. In all that I'm feeling and experiencing, I know that I am not alone. For you are with me and you will never leave me. Thank you for your constant hand in my life, even now. In Jesus name. Amen.



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GOD KNOWS OUR SITUATION; HE WILL NOT JUDGE US AS IF WE HAD NO DIFFICULTIES TO OVERCOME. WHAT MATTERS IS THE SINCERITY AND PERSEVERANCE OF OUR WILL TO OVERCOME THEM.
-C.S. LEWIS

“

GET TO JESUS

"AND, BEHOLD, A WOMAN, WHICH WAS DISEASED WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD TWELVE YEARS, CAME BEHIND HIM, AND TOUCHED THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT: FOR SHE SAID WITHIN HERSELF, IF I MAY BUT TOUCH HIS GARMENT, I SHALL BE WHOLE." MATTHEW 9:20

Twelve long years.

That is how long the woman with the issue had been in a hard place.

A place of affliction.
A place of suffering.
A place of discomfort.

Could you imagine?

Maybe you can.
But sometimes, it is even hard for us to endure for just one day.

Because hope deferred makes the heart sick.

This Woman with the Issue as spoken of in the Gospels, is most undoubtedly noted for pushing her way through the crowd to get to Jesus.

And that is the encouragement.

Even in our hard place, may we push through until we get to Jesus.

Until our breakthrough comes.



A PRAYER.

Lord, I thank you right now because I can come to you and make my requests known. Lord, even now in the hard place you are wanting to make me whole,

I am coming before you, reaching for you to touch the hem of your garment, that I might be made whole. No matter how long it takes Lord, I will keep pushing towards you.

I know that you are sovereign. And I know that you are lovingly caring for me and that you are with me. In Jesus name. Amen.

OUR VISION IS SO LIMITED WE CAN HARDLY IMAGINE A LOVE THAT DOES NOT SHOW ITSELF IN PROTECTION FROM SUFFERING... THE LOVE OF GOD DID NOT PROTECT HIS OWN SON... HE WILL NOT NECESSARILY PROTECT US - NOT FROM ANYTHING IT TAKES TO MAKE US LIKE HIS SON. A LOT OF HAMMERING AND CHISELING AND PURIFYING BY FIRE WILL HAVE TO GO INTO THE PROCESS.
-ELISABETH ELLIOT



THROUGH EYES OF FAITH

IN ORDER TO TRUST GOD, WE MUST VIEW OUR ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH, NOT OF SENSE.
-JERRY BRIDGES

The Bible says that Job was a just man.

Yet Job experienced an unimaginable amount of loss.

He lost his family and possessions all in one day. All except, as the Bible says a nagging wife.

We may not understand it, when we are in a hard season, but we must be willing to trust God.

That all things are working together into a pattern for good.

Everything that happens is allowed by God.

Lamentations 3:37 AMP says that "who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has authorized and commanded it?"

He does not bring bad things upon us. He does not cause bad to happen to us but God does allow things to happen.

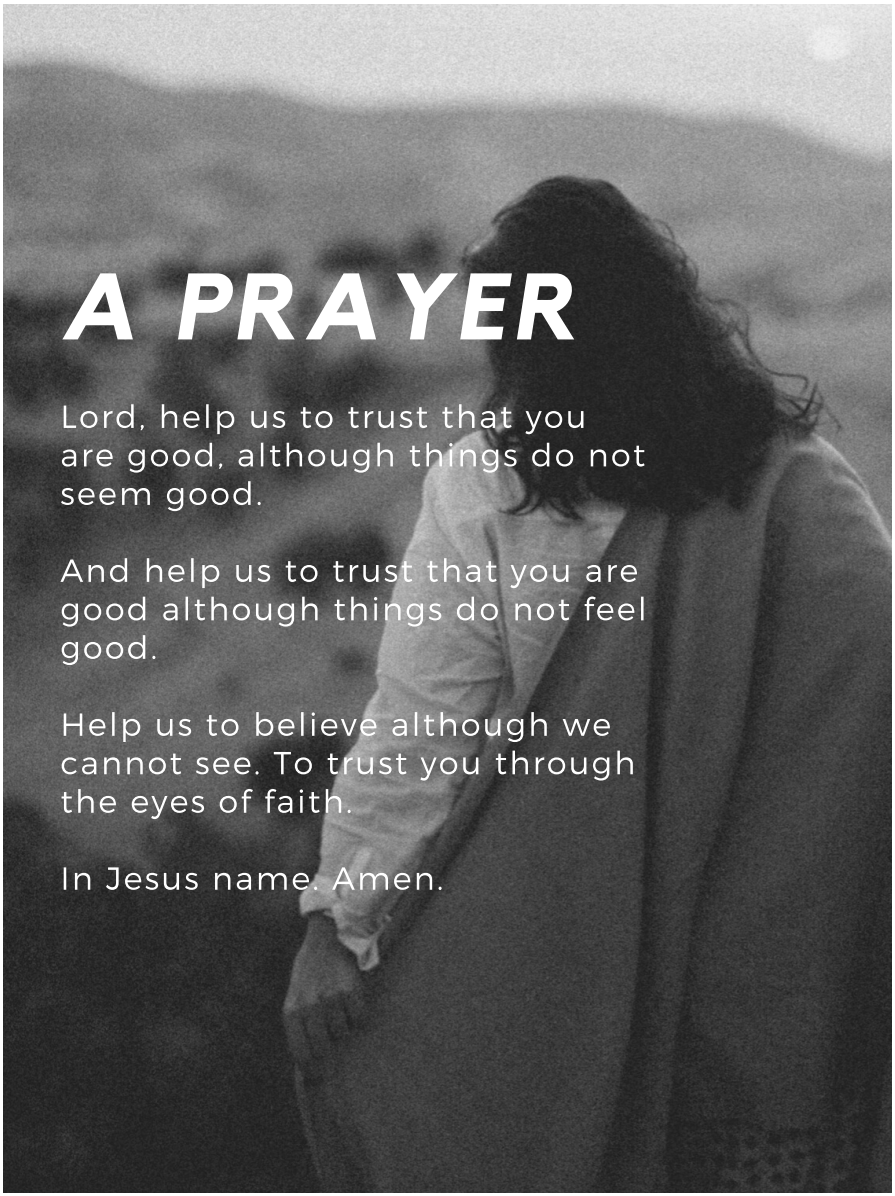
So what did Job do during his hard season, that we can learn from?

He cried out to God.
He praised God.

He prayed for his friends.
He even questioned God.

But in the end, we know that God gave Job double for his trouble.

The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.
Job 42:10 AMP



A PRAYER

Lord, help us to trust that you are good, although things do not seem good.

And help us to trust that you are good although things do not feel good.

Help us to believe although we cannot see. To trust you through the eyes of faith.

In Jesus name. Amen.



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Natasha is a writer and speaker, sharing stories on faith, family and grief. Her mission is to inspire others to do life better through intentional faith in Jesus.

You can find her work on Lovely You Blog as well as publications such as: Her View From Home, TODAY Parents, Focus on the Family, Beyond Women and Dear Sister's Magazine.

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