

# PERSEVERANCE

## JULY 9, 2017

### GENESIS 41:37-41

These verses speak of Joseph at the pinnacle of success. Pharaoh made him ruler over his house and second in command over his entire kingdom. It seems as though success was handed to him on a silver platter. Joseph didn't always have it easy. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, wrongly accused of rape, imprisoned and forgotten by the butler. How was Joseph able to overcome the challenges? He possessed a quality that's essential for everyone's success – perseverance, or the ability to remain steadfast despite facing difficulties or delays in achieving success.

### THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THOSE WHO PERSEVERE

1. They usually experience setbacks along the way.
  - A. Some setbacks are self caused. Joseph had loose lips. The Israelites at Jericho.
  - B. Some setbacks are not ones fault. Lucille Ball attended the same acting school as Bette Davis and was told she had no acting ability. "I Love Lucy" was the most popular 50's show!
2. They refuse to live in the past. **PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 (NLT)**
  - A. Paul refused to allow his past to prevent him from success.
    - "Sparky" failed eight grade, flunked Latin, algebra and English in high school.
3. They keep pressing forward.
  - A. Paul knew it's not about how we start, but how we finish. So he kept his eyes on the finish line and the prize, and kept moving forward toward the goal.  
**2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8**
  - B. Whatever the goal, there will be challenges to overcome. To stay focused, we must remind ourselves of what we left behind, and what lies ahead.
    - Jesus – **HEBREWS 12:2-3 (AMPC)**
    - Salvation – **HEBREWS 10:35-39**
    - Marriage – **MALACHI 2:14-16** – The goal being oneness between husband and wife in order to establish a proper environment for rearing godly offspring.
4. They know that God's strength is available to them. **PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (AMPC)**
  - A. The little boy who couldn't roll a large rock over the wall around his sandpit.
  - B. **JOHN 15:5** – Apart from God, we can do nothing. We're like a glove apart from a hand, helpless. Put the glove on someone's hand, and much can be done. So it is with us. If we clothe ourselves with God's strength, power and glory, much can be done.

**CONCLUSION:** Whatever the goal, there will be challenges along the way, and setbacks to overcome. We must take courage, stay steadfast and move forward in faith. Then, through the power of God, we will be victorious and achieve success.