

Overcoming Life's Challenges

Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Part 5

Overcoming Bitterness: The Power of Forgiveness

Genesis 45

Overcoming Rejection:

The Power of Courage

Overcoming Temptation:

The Power of Character

Overcoming Disappointment:

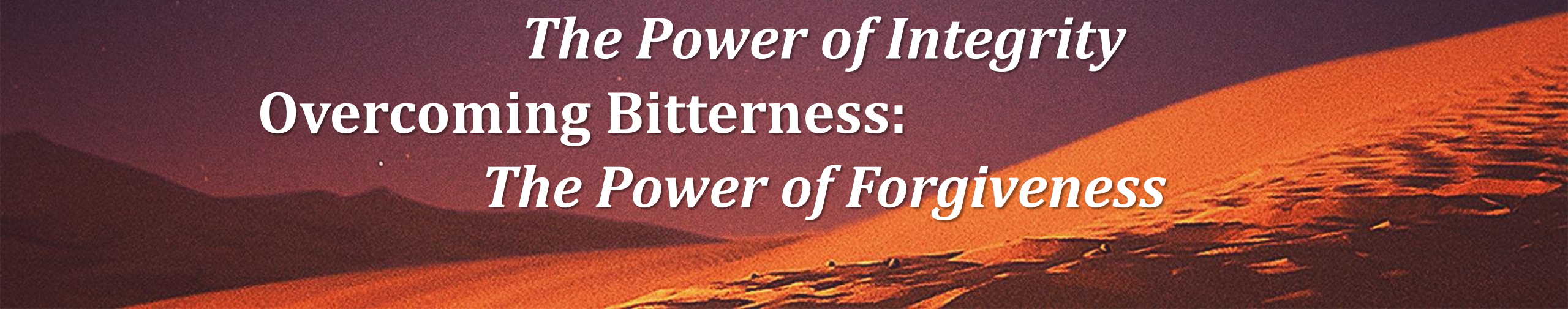
The Power of Trust

Overcoming Success:

The Power of Integrity

Overcoming Bitterness:

The Power of Forgiveness





Bitterness Guilt



Bitterness is caused by 2 primary culprits:

1. Life circumstances that we don't want.
2. People offenses that we can't (don't) handle.

**Biblical responses to the bad circumstances
and hurtful people in our lives ...**

- 1) He saw purpose in his circumstances.**
- 2) He allowed his theology to eclipse his
emotions & bad memories.**
- 3) He chose forgiveness in both attitude
& action.**

The Path that Forgiveness takes:

1. Joseph accepted God's plan and refused to dwell on the hurts he experienced.



MANASSEH

“TO FORGET”



The Path that Forgiveness takes:

1. Joseph accepted God's plan and refused to dwell on the hurts he experienced.
2. At the appropriate time, Joseph confronted his brothers (*those who offended him*).

Confrontation that leads to Forgiveness & Healing...

- It was private, not public.

Proverbs 10:12

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.”

Proverbs 12:16

“A fool’s vexation is known at once, but a prudent man conceals dishonor.”

Proverbs 17:9

“He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.”

Matthew 18:15

“And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

The next time you are tempted to talk about someone T.H.I.N.K. before you speak.

T... is it True?

H... is it Helpful?

I... is it Inspiring?

N... is it Necessary?

K... is it Kind?

Confrontation that leads to Forgiveness & Healing...

- It was private, not public.
- It was face to face, not long distance.
- It was compassionate, not bitter.
- It was not overlooking the wrong.
- It was not minimizing the wrong.
- It was not taking the blame for the wrong.

The Path that Forgiveness takes:

1. Joseph accepted God's plan and refused to dwell on the hurts he experienced.
2. At the appropriate time, Joseph confronted his brothers (*those who offended him*).
3. Relationships were restored!



CORRIE
TEN BOOM
The Hiding Place

*“Because the
love of God is
shed abroad in
our hearts by
the Holy Ghost
which is given
unto us.”*

Romans 5:5