

Faith in Action Part 3

“22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.” (Hebrews 11:22 KJV)

Joseph knew that Egypt is not his place that he should be buried, and knew that God will finally come and fulfill what He had promised to His people by bringing them into the promised land.

Therefore Joseph by his faith in God was able to see the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Knowing and was assured through faith that God would finally come and deliver His people out of slavery and bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey. And that what Joseph asked the Israelites to do, ***“24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. 26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.” (Genesis 50:24-26 KJV)***

And truly the Lord finally after centuries came and brought the Israelites out from Egypt through the leadership of Moses. And Joseph bones were taken from Egypt: ***“17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: 18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt. 19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.” (Exodus 13:17-19 KJV)*** Therefore and finally Joseph was buried in his land that he received from his father, the parcel of land Jacob took from the Amorites, ***“32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.” (Joshua 24:32 KJV)***

Now, how you can apply the above message in your life? Egypt for you is the earth that you are living now, but the place that you should look and longing for is Heaven, the eternal dwelling with God, ***“20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21 KJV)*** You should set your mind and focus not on the earthly things that will perish but on the Heavenly dwellings that God had prepared for us to dwell with Him forever. Let us see how we can do that from the Scriptures:

1. “15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

(1 John 2:15-17 KJV) You are not to be worldly and attached to worldly things but to think about Heavenly things and the place that God had prepared for us in Heaven.

2. “1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.” (2 Peter 1:1-14 KJV) Put in your mind to work out your salvation and to make your calling and election sure by being abound in faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness and love, to be fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and you will receive a rich welcome into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

3. “7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you. 13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-18 KJV) It might be that externally we are weary and troubled with many trials and the hardships of life, but we should not focus on that because we are aware that our inner man is renewed day by day. Therefore we can conclude from such that our afflictions and the sufferings that we are passing through, as we persevere will work for us eternal glory.

4. “2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 KJV) Here on earth you are in a mission to live your life for God and to be a good testimony to others to follow Christ. Your final home is in Heaven, and when Jesus will come we will be together with Him and forever. And this is what your faith in action will lead you to achieve.

Now, we will move into another episode of faith in action: **“23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.” (Hebrews 11:23 KJV)**

Persecution came against the Israelites in Egypt just around the time of the birth of Moses. The Israelites were increasing in number and it seem that their increase brought some threat on the Egyptians so the king said, **“9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: 10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.” (Exodus 1:9-10)** Some measures were taken to control the birth of the male boys among the Israelites but that measures were unsuccessful. Therefore Pharaoh resorted to do another mischief: **“22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.” (Exodus 1:22 KJV)** At that period of time that this issue of the king was going on, Moses was born by his mother as we can read below:

“1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. 2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.” (Exodus 2:1-2 KJV) His parents realized that the child they received was from God so they persevered in protecting the baby Moses. They did not follow the rule that contradict God’s Word as Peter and the Apostle did when they followed God and not men, **“29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29 KJV)** Therefore the parents of baby Moses hid him from Pharaoh’s soldiers. They did their part and took the risk to protect the child that God gave them. They showed their faith unto God by putting it into action and protect their baby. They could see the good plan that God had for their child and what were the potential things that this child will do for the Lord when he will grow and become a man. **In the same way not only we need to obey God rather than man’s made rule, but as well as we need to see the potential that our children can do for God when they will grow adult, and so from now while they are still small we need to nurture them, raise them in the fear of God and train them to serve Him.**

The story of Moses did not end in that, but when they could not hide him anymore, let us read what they did: **“3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.” (Exodus 2:3 KJV)** The parents were determined to protect their child and were not willing to throw him away. The mother got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch to prevent the water from entering in, and so to protect him from the water of the Nile. Not only that, **“4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.” (Exodus 2:4 KJV)** So the whole family got involved in protecting the baby

Moses. They put their faith into action and worked with God to make Moses live and grow to the age that would enable him to do what God wants him to do.

In the same way, the children that God had placed in your hand and in your family is God’s gift to you and you need to be responsible to protect them from the threats and the hazards around them. The influence of TV, video games, mixing with other children, the internet and the rest are all hazards that might affect and afflict our children, therefore we are called to **protect them**. Some would say to the parents of Moses, *‘How this little basket can protect your child?’* That is correct, it is not the basket that was coated with tar and pitch protected Moses but God Himself when the parents acted in faith. **In the same way it is God who would protect your children, but you need to do your part for God, to act in faith and work with God to keep your children in a healthy atmosphere.**

When Moses’ Parents did their part, then the Lord did his part. Let us read what happened: **“5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.” (Exodus 2:5-10 KJV)** What the Lord did was beyond human thought and imagination. God used the daughter of Pharaoh to protect the baby, and his mother was rewarded for her faithfulness; her baby was kept with her and she was paid and well provided for her nursing to her baby, and Moses continued in his mother lap drinking her milk.

The events that were around the birth of Moses were similar to the events that were around the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us read these events: **“13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.” (Matthew 2:13-18 KJV)** At the time of the birth of Jesus also many children were killed by King Herod, but Joseph and Mary did their part. They acted in faith. They acted courageously and shrewdly and took heed of the warning of the Lord to protect the baby Jesus by taking him to Egypt.

The family of Moses expressed their faith unto God through actions and worked with Him to protect their child. We can notice the following in what they did to save the life of their child:

A. The family acted in faith: They saw that he was a fine and a goodly child. They discerned that God would do something with their boy.

B. The family acted courageously: They were not afraid of the king's edict.

C. The family cared tremendously: They hid him for three months at home.

D. The family acted wisely: They got a papyrus basket, an ark of bulrushes, for him and coated it with tar and pitch to keep it safe in the water.

E. The family acted creatively: They put a cover over the basket to protect him from the crocodiles of the Nile River, even to the point that Pharaoh's daughter needed to open it to see the child.

F. The family acted shrewdly: The sister stood at a distance and then she said to the Pharaoh's daughter, *"Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?"* (Exodus 2:7 KJV)

G. They acted humbly: His mother accepted the payment from Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, *"Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages."* (Exodus 2:9 KJV)

This family of Moses was living in God's will and acting in faith, and their fruit was Moses whom God used to deliver the people of God, the Israelites, the typical church, from the hand of Pharaoh. Moses became the princess' son but was nurtured by his family. He lived in the palace but was also trained by his parents. His own family though consisting only of a few members who lived for God and kept God's Word alive in their home had stood the test of persecution in spite of all pressures and trials in life and they remain even today as a challenge for parents of this generation, and even for us, who are determined to raise up children to serve God.

My Dear and Beloved: True faith in God should be accompanied by actions, *"17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."* (James 2:17 KJV) *"24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."* (James 2:24 KJV) Your faith in God should be translated into actions. * As we learned from Joseph that you need to live and in your mind the ultimate goal to reach Heaven. Therefore you need to cleanse yourself from any worldly thing to keep yourself pure that when Jesus would come He will take you with us to Heaven. * Also as we learned from the family of Moses that we need to cherish our children; that they are given from God, and so we should preserve them, protect them from the bad influences of the atmosphere around them and nurture them and shelter them until they are adult and able to do the works of God and get fully involved in the assigned task that God had ordained for them to do in their service unto Him. * So as Moses' family did their part to protect their child and work with God to bring Him into the next stage of life to serve God. You are also ought to do the same to your children to protect them while they are still young

from the threats around them till they reach the adult stage of life to serve God and do the plans that He prepared in advance for them to do. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank for the encouraging Word that you sent to me and the beautiful place that you prepared for us to come and take to be with you in Heaven. Lord thank you for the children that you had given to us and thank you for your Word that teaches us of how to take care of our children and to raise them to serve you.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your pride and lack of humility. Repent of your greed and the love of money. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your non willingness to care and to sacrifice to nurture your children and raise them in the fear of God. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God's Word in the Bible. Repent of your yoke with non believers, with many friends, and with the Media, News and games. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to live a life worthy of my Heavenly citizenship. Lord help me to trust you more and to persevere in doing your will until you come and take me to Heaven. Lord I commit myself and my family to work and cooperate with you to be courageous, wise, shrewd and humble in order to protect our children and raise them to the adult stage to do the plans that you had prepared for them. Lord sustain us, protect us and provide all our needs to be able to do such a task, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to live in holiness in the fears of you waiting for you to come and take us to Heaven. Lord thank you for their commitment to protect their children and raise them in the fears of you. Lord provide for them, give them wisdom and courage to do what is needed for their children to do, and make their lives good testimony to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to proclaim your Word and to live in holiness and to implement what we received in the lives of our families, children, the members and the workers of the church. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates

www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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