

# Hebrews 11:22

## Joseph: The Confidence of Faith

The Summit Church, Hebrews 11

**MPT:** *Despite everything he went through in his life, Joseph wanted to be buried in the place where his ultimate confidence lied: the land of God's promise.*

**MPS:** *When you have faith that God is in control it gives you confidence despite whatever circumstance is in front of you.*

**Universal felt need:** *The desire to have confidence in God's faithfulness no matter what circumstance I'm in.*

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Hebrews chapter eleven. If you've been enjoying this series as much as I have, just say "YUP!"

- (I'll apologize in advance, but my kids have been doing all the camps this summer, so if I hit you with all the talk back phrases that's why... "1, 2, 3, eyes on me!")

### STAND + READ

<sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

### INTRODUCTION

Speaking of **Student Camps**, shoutout to all of the folks who made all of our camps so successful the last few weeks. Between VBS, MS, HS, and then Kids Camp last week we had almost 3k students and kids, over 1000 leaders/vols, and an infinite amount of SWEAT, amen?

I always get a kick out of seeing people's fitness tracker stats during camps: 20k+ steps and 5k calories burned.

- **Wanna get in shape? Volunteer for camp next year!**

I've tried a few different **fitness bands** over the years...one of them I was really excited to try, so I ordered one for both me and my wife. I was verbally walking through the setup (height, weight, gender, etc.) then it got to a question that said: *When it comes to fitness, do you consider yourself an athlete, average, weekend warrior, or beginner?* (Again, I'm reading this out loud.)

- To which my wife, without hesitation, says, "**Average.**"
- Whoa. Her argument is that "An athlete is someone who gets paid to do something professionally. You are average...the **PEAK OF AVERAGE—like in the top % of average**—but still average."
  - (To this day a number of my friends refer to me as "Peak of Average.")
- **Talk about a shot to the 'ole confidence.**

### UNIVERSAL FELT NEED

Confidence is a funny thing, isn't it? Isn't it crazy how one second you can be so **confident** and **sure** of something...but then the next second you're **uncertain** and **insecure** about that very same thing.

- **One day** you feel like you can conquer anything life throws at you—**CONFIDENT**.
  - The next you wonder if you're gonna make it through the end of the day *cuz of everything life keeps throwing at you*. Life be lifin'.
- Or for you **parents**: one moment you're feeling good about your parenting, right? Thinking, "You know what, we can do this!" **CONFIDENT**.

- **20 minutes later** you find yourself hiding in the bathroom to get some alone time while everyone's screaming cuz you have NO IDEA what to do.
- If you've been a **Christian** for any length of time you know this feeling. One moment you're trusting God with your future, you're trusting him as Provider, no matter what is happening around you the joy of the Lord is your strength; **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"**—**CONFIDENT**.
  - But later in the same day you find yourself asking, *"Yeah, I can do all things EXCEPT THAT THING, LORD! My CC company won't accept "Jehovah Jireh" as a form of payment so I need you to hurry up, Lord! You said 'knock and it'll be opened to you' but all these potential job doors just keep closing, Lord!"*

How is it that I can have a **"peace that surpasses all understanding"** and be so **assured** in one moment, but then tied in a ball of **anxiety** and **hopelessness** the next? *You ever feel like that?*

From the life of Joseph, what I wanna talk to you about today is the confidence of faith.

- Being confident in life is first and foremost **an issue of faith**.
- The word "confident" literally means "with faith"= *Con (with) + fide (faith)*
- Here's our working definition: **Confidence = assurance regardless of circumstance**
  - Not confidence as some kind of personality trait. But confidence as **the ability to be sure of something regardless of circumstances**.

And here's the operating question: *How different would your outlook on life be if you were wholly confident in the Lord? . . . if you truly*

*believed that God is with you in all situations, his promises apply to you, and that he really is for you, that God is who he says he is and will do what he has said he'll do in your life?*

There might not be a better example of this in all of Scripture than **Joseph**. We've been in this Hebrews 11 series and now it's Joseph's turn to stand on the podium to receive his gold medal for the Hall of Faith. Look at it with me again—**Hebrews 11:22**, **"By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones."**

## JOSEPH'S LIFE

Once again, the Author of Hebrews chooses something **I would not have chosen** to put someone's "great faith" on display. As a refresher, lemme walk you through alllllll of the things *I would have chosen* to demonstrate Joseph's great faith. If you're new to the Bible, here's where I catch you up on who Joseph is:

First, in the Bible there was a man named **Abraham**. God calls Abraham to leave everything he knows and go to the land of Canaan where God promises (hence the term PROMISED LAND) to **make him into a great nation; blessing him and multiplying his family along the way**. God tells Abraham he's gonna bless him so he can be a blessing to the whole world.

- This covenant promise is important to remember, so lock that in your brain. **God—Abraham—Covenant—Promised Land**.

Fast forward and Abraham has a kid named **Isaac**, Isaac has a kid **Jacob**. Jacob has a kid named **JOSEPH**. **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph**. So Abraham is Joseph's **great grandfather**. Got it?

That brings us to Joseph's life—it's all recorded in Genesis 37-50. (AI has actually rendered a picture of **young Joseph** for us.) Here's the Cliff Notes of Joseph's life: Joseph is one of 12 brothers...but he's not just 1 of 12, he's **daddy favorite cuz he was the firstborn to Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. . . which means he's his siblings least favorite.**

- His brothers are like, "Dad, can we have some more waffles?" And he's like, "Shut it, Gad and Naphtali! Joseph gets all the waffles. Also, your names are ridiculous! Who gave you those? Why can't you be more like Joseph?"

Well one Christmas all of Joseph's brothers got **lame pairs of socks** from their dad...but Joseph got a **coat of many colors**. It kinda **looked like this**. Brothers hate him even more for it.

Joseph wakes up one morning from his TempurPedic after having this crazy dream about his brothers. In perhaps a lapse of judgment, 17 year old Joseph decides to gather all of his brothers for a **press conference**. They already don't like him, but then he goes on to tell them that he had a dream where they're all sheaves that will one day bow down to him.

- They're all like, "That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard."
- Well then he has another dream about the **moon and stars bowing down** to him...so he tells his mom and dad that they're also gonna bow down to him one day.
- This isn't just **confidence**; it's borderline **arrogance**.

One day his brothers are all out working while **Joseph is on the golf course with dad**. His dad asks him to go check on his brothers. So Jacob **gives Joseph some travel money** and he heads out to find them.

- Long story short, they hate him so much they end up **beating him up** (they initially plan to kill him but their oldest brother is like, "Uh, that's a little extreme, guys. Let's at least sell him

*and make some money. C'mon, let's be smart about this."*). **So they beat him up, sell him, and then they take his blood stained coat back to Jacob, their dad, and tell him that an animal must've attacked Joseph and he died.**

- Joseph ends up being sold to Potiphar, the captain of Egypt's armies.

And it's at this point in **Genesis 39** this strange phrase shows up for the first time: v2 **<sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph...**

- "Excuse me?!" Joseph just got **beaten and sold into slavery**...the Lord was with who? Not Joseph. But keep reading: **<sup>2</sup>The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. . . <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in [Potiphar's] sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.**

This is such a pivotal moment in the life and faith of Joseph.

- How easily he could've thrown his hands up here and said, "Look at my circumstances. There's **NO WAY God can be good. I've lost all confidence in God's faithfulness.**"
- How easily could his faith have been snatched from him in this moment...but instead he remained confident in God.

But just when things are looking up, along comes another roadblock: insert Potiphar's wife.

There's another thing you need to know about Joseph, Genesis **39:6** says **Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. . . kinda like this.**

So what happens is that Potiphar's wife starts hitting on Joseph. She's doing everything she can to try and get him to sleep with her: she's

sending texts, swiping right, sliding into DM's. Nothing's working;

**Joseph keeps turning her down cuz he fears God more than he fears his master's wife.**

Well one day she sees Joseph walk into a house by himself, so she's pushing all her chips in on one last ditch effort: **she turns on her 90s R&B playlist, Dru Hill and 112 start playing**...but just as she goes to make her move Joseph freaks out and takes off in a hurry; homey hightails it out of there.

- (Which, BTW, what a great lesson: Joseph doesn't see how close to the line of sinning he can get...he doesn't think, *"Let's just see what happens and I'll figure out whether it's sin along the way."*...he doesn't flirt with the possibility of worldly pleasure. **No, he just runs as far away from sin as possible and says "Far be it from me to sin against my God."**
- Let me tell you something: **Few things kill faith as often as the inability to wait on God's pleasures.**)

Joseph literally FLEES from sin. But in the process she grabs his "garment" ...dude ran so fast he came right out of his shirt. So she takes the garment to her husband, Potiphar, and lies by telling him, **"Joseph sexually assaulted me."** And, just as he should be, Potiphar is furious and throws Joseph into jail.

Awful, right? Then we see that interesting phrase pop up again in **Gen 39**, <sup>21</sup>**But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.** <sup>22</sup>**And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.** <sup>23</sup>**The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.**

**"The Lord was with him."** What a fascinating phrase considering Joseph's circumstances. I mean, if Joseph were my buddy and he was going through this, I'm not sure I—even as a pastor—would be saying, *"Gosh, the Lord is truly with you, bro. It's so obvious."*

That's because I think we've so misunderstood what God's nearness is supposed to look like to the point we hardly even recognize it.

- We think *"The Lord is with us"* means we get the **great job**, get in to the **right school**, we're accepted by the **right crowd**, the **cancer screening is clear**, the **finances are always in the black**.
- Yet, so often the Bible presents the nearness of God as something we find so much more palpable in the valleys than we do on the mountaintops:
  - **Hagar** in the wilderness after being cast out.
  - **Job** in his pain after losing everything.
  - **Paul and Silas** in prison after being arrested.
  - **Mary and Martha** mourning the loss of their brother Lazarus.
  - **Blind men. Lepers. Outcasts.**
  - All examples of how **the Lord is NEAR to the brokenhearted** (Psalm 34:18).
- So often **God allows circumstances to shake our confidence in earthly things so we can yearn for our heavenly life with him**—our life where **joy will be full and pleasure will be eternal**.
- I love the way **Bob Goff** says it: **"God doesn't break things so he can fix them; he fixes broken things so he can use them."**
  - God was positioning and preparing Joseph to use him for his purposes.

Well, after being in prison for a few years, two of Pharaoh's servants get thrown in with Joseph: a baker and a cupbearer. (I've always wondered what those two got thrown in for: *This bread is terrible. And it's the wrong cup. JAIL!*)

One night, both these guys have dreams. They don't know what they mean but Joseph is like, "You know who is good at interpreting dreams? GOD. Tell me what you've got and I'll interpret them."

- They tell him and he lets them know it's a GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS SCENARIO.
  - **GOOD NEWS:** Cuppy, you're heading back to the office. Pharaoh misses his sommelier.
    - **BUT DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN OFFICE!** Help a brother out.
  - **BAD NEWS:** Baker...you're headed to the gallows where Pharaoh is gonna hang you and then birds are gonna peck your eyeballs out. Sorry, bro.

Sure enough, three days later it's Pharaoh's birthday and all of this goes down just as the Lord revealed it to Joseph.

- Cupbearer = hooray! Baker = no bueno.

Yet, ONCE AGAIN, **just as something good seems like it's about to happen to Joseph, the cupbearer forgets about him**. . .until one day when **Pharaoh himself has some dreams that nobody can interpret**—it's about a bunch of cows coming out of the Nile river, **7 fat cows** followed by **7 skinny cows**.

- Then Cuppy is like, "Oh dang, I just remembered this guy...but he's really good at dream interpretation."
- So they go get Joseph out of prison, get him shaved and showered up (always makes me think of Jack Bauer in 24 when he's getting out of the Chinese prison), and they ask him

to interpret the dreams. To which he responds, "Happy to do it, but it's not me who interprets dreams, IT'S GOD."

- **Which is kind of an awesome power move, cuz none of Pharaoh's "spiritual" folks could interpret the dreams...and Joseph is like, "Watch this. The ONE true God!"**
- Joseph interprets the dreams by telling Pharaoh, "There's gonna be 7 great years (fat cows) followed by 7 awful years (skinny cows). So save up during the first 7 so we can make it through the other 7."

Pharaoh is so blown away by Joseph's wisdom and interpretation that he not only takes him out of prison, but he puts him **second in command over everything in Egypt**.

- He gets his own house, his own chariot, **HIS OWN DOG**...it's amazing. This dude has literally gone **from prison to the palace**.

Fast forward 10 years—the 7 good years have come and gone and Egypt is in the middle of their famine. Joseph's biological family—his dad and his 11 brothers—are all affected by the famine, so Jacob sends his sons to get some food from Pharaoh (remember, Pharaoh has put Joseph in charge of **Operation Feed Egypt** for this famine...so his brothers are coming to *him*. The one they sold into slavery 22 years earlier).

- Well they show up and they don't recognize Joseph. It's been over a decade, he's grown up, plus the whole headdress and mascara thing, so **they don't recognize him**.

In chapters 42-45 a whole bunch of **emotional** and **dramatic** stuff happens, but eventually Joseph can't contain himself anymore so he reveals himself to his brothers like, **"GUYS, it's ME!"**

- We wanna be like, “Awwww yay!”
- But imagine being his brothers. TERRIFIED!

But look at what Joseph says in **Genesis 45**, <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for **God sent me** before you to preserve life. . . <sup>7</sup>And **God sent me** before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, **but God.**

- No anger. No outrage. No bitterness. No vengeance. No payback.
- Just utter **confidence** that God was in control all along.
- Joseph’s confidence makes me think of one of my favorite **Jl Packer** quotes: **“Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life’s problems fall into place of their own accord.”**
- It has been 22 years since Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery...and only now, 22 years later, can Joseph see what in the world all of that **loss**, all of that **slander**, all of the **loneliness**, the **affliction**, and the **injustice**, was about.
  - Yet all along he remained confident that God was in control and working his plan for his life, regardless of his circumstances.
- *How different would your outlook on life be if you were wholly confident in the Lord? . . . if you truly believed that God is with you in all situations, his promises apply to you, and that he really is for you, that God is who he says he is and will do what he has said he’ll do in your life?*

Eventually Joseph's father, Jacob, makes his way to Egypt and they reunite after all these years. **Years later, Jacob dies**, and that brings us back to this last scene in Genesis 50:

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” . . . <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Which brings us all the way back to **Hebrews 11:22**...when the Author of Hebrews begins with **“By faith Joseph,”** do you see the **copious amount of content** he has to work with?!

- *By faith, Joseph **believed the dreams** God gave him.*
- *By faith, Joseph **held onto his integrity** in a foreign land.*
- *By faith, Joseph **loved God even when he was imprisoned.***
- *By faith, Joseph **boldly declared God’s words to Pharaoh.***
- *By faith, Joseph **didn’t hold grudges or bitterness** but rather forgave those who betrayed him.*

Of all the incredible things the Author of Hebrews could’ve chosen, this is what he chooses: <sup>22</sup>**By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.**

### **Why choose this story as the best example of Joseph’s faith?**

*Because out of everything that happened in his life, this is what displayed his ultimate confidence in God.*

- Remember what faith is in **Hebrews 11**: <sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance (confidence) of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- Faith is confidence in what we *cannot* see. All of this other stuff, Joseph saw how God used it and worked it out.
- **The Exodus, though, hasn't happened yet...Joseph's bones can't go anywhere cuz he hasn't died yet.**

In case you haven't picked up on it, this has been the Author's pattern all along...every example of faith in Hebrews 11 is about faith in something they couldn't see. It's about **hope for the future based on the promises of God.**

- **Noah** hadn't seen rain, yet he built an ark.
- **Abraham** didn't know where he was headed, but he followed.
- **Sarah** was well past childbearing age, yet she believed.
- **Moses** gave up the riches of Egypt and "*persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*"

Every one of these people believed God is real, he'll keep his promises, and that seeking him is worth the effort—that's faith.

So if you wanna build confidence like Joseph, I've got two statements for you to take home with you.

### 1. "I BELIEVE GOD"

It was funny typing that, cuz autocorrect kept trying to change it to "I believe in God." And, yeah, that's step one...but faith goes a step further and says, "Not only do I believe *in* God, but I believe *God.*"

- Faith functions in the **present** based on the promises of God. Faith is confidence in the integrity and reliability of God.

- Faith says: *I BELIEVE GOD.*

Think about the first part of Joseph's statement in v22,<sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites...

How would Joseph know anything about an Exodus? I mean, right now in Egypt their current situation is GREAT: they've got **favor** and **comfort** in Egypt; not **enslavement** and eventual **exodus**. Joseph's #2 in command. Things are **trending up and right** for the Israelites. There was no reason for the Israelites to even *think* about leaving Egypt.

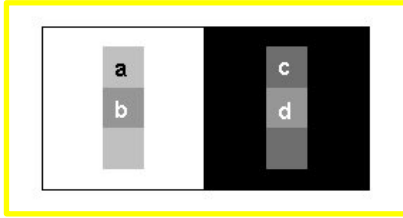
But Joseph believed God and took him at his word. Remember the covenant with Abraham I told you about?

- **Genesis 15:13-14**, <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. (He's talking about Egypt) <sup>14</sup>But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve (ten plagues), and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (Exodus)"

I can't help but think if we were in Israel's position how we'd be **tempted to reexamine the promises of God in light of our present circumstances.** *Slavery? Sojourners? C'mon, we've got Joseph! Look at our favor!*

- LISTEN: We can't let our perception of God be controlled by our circumstances; our confidence comes from **who he is and what he's promised**, not from **what we're going through**—good or bad.

The other day I saw this image (3 different slides):



The human brain is spectacularly good at encoding all sorts of information: what we see, hear, feel, experience, etc. **But what you see/perceive is always dependent on the background or context in which that encoding takes place.**

- For instance, in this image (Slide 2) the color block that contains letter 'A' matches what other color block? It looks like 'D,' right?
  - But remember: **what you see/perceive is always dependent on the background in which that encoding takes place.**
- **It appears that A = D but actually, B = D (they are matched for "grayness").**
  - **Look at this:** (Slide 3)
- See, our senses—our sight—are thrown off because what we see is always dependent on the context in which the encoding takes place in our brains.
- IOW, **context controls perception.**

Here's what I'm saying: **spiritually speaking, we cannot let our context—our circumstances—control our perception in life.** We cannot take the promises of God found in Scripture and parade them past the judgment bar of human reason, thinking somehow we see things more clearly than he does.

- *Well God I know you said 'B' and 'D' are perfectly color matched, but from my context—what I can see with my eyes—it sure doesn't look that way.*

- *God, I know you promised I would never be alone, but you're not moving fast enough, so I'm gonna date this person even though they're not where they should be spiritually.*
- *God, I know you said you can redeem and restore anything, but I'm just really unhappy in my marriage (you know, irreconcilable differences), and you want me to be happy, right? Surely you're okay with this divorce.*
- *God, I know you said this isn't right; this isn't good...but how can it not be if it feels so right?*

Church, as followers of Jesus Christ, our background/context must always be **this Book**. The only context that should control our perception are the promises of God found in here!

**Adoniram Judson**, the great Baptist M to Burma in the 1800s, knew this truth—he believed God and his promises. It took 6 years before he saw his first convert in Burma, he saw 3 wives in a row die, and 7 of his 13 children would be buried while in Burma. He spent time shackled in prisons suffering from all sorts of diseases.

- After losing everything, seeing his family broken down, and spending time in prison one person asked Judson, *"What hope do you have for Burma after all of this tragedy?"*
- To which Judson responded by saying: **"The future is as bright as the promises of God."**
  - BTW, today there's an estimated 4.5M Christians in Myanmar.

You want confidence? Believe God when he says:

- **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.** Psalm 2:8 [ESV]



- Believe God when he says: **He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.** Isaiah 40:29 [NKJV]
- Believe God when he says: **Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.** Isaiah 41:10 [CSB]
- Believe God when he says: **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.** Isaiah 43:2-3 [ESV]
- **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.** Proverbs 3:5-6 [ESV]

The eyes of faith—the confidence of faith—sees life primarily through the **lens of God’s promises**, not through the **lens of your problems**.

- Our faith is the confidence that God will do what he promised and that he keeps his word every single time. Every. Single. Time. Church, we can never be too confident when our confidence is in Jesus.

This isn’t self-confidence; it’s God-confidence. Confidence says, “I believe God.” Not only do I believe God, but...

## 2. “I BELONG TO GOD”

**Hebrews 11, <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.**

In general, where you get buried is where you considered home. By Joseph asking his brothers to take his bones out of Egypt and back to the Promised Land he’s declaring, “I may have lived and died *in* Egypt...but I’m certainly not living and dying *an Egyptian*.”

Joseph not only knew **what he believed**, he knew **where he belonged**—*I BELONG TO GOD in Canaan (the Promised Land), not in Egypt*. So he made them promise to carry his bones out of Egypt at the Exodus.

- And when the Israelites were eventually enslaved in Egypt and wandering in the desert...those bones, **for over 400 years, would be right there delivering a one-point sermon reminding Israel: “With God, better days are always coming. Don’t forget his promises.”**

Joseph’s **address** may have been in Egypt, but his **soul** belonged to God in the Promised Land. Outside he looked Egyptian; inside he was Israelite.

Think about it like this: **two coke cans—one is filled and sealed, the other is open and empty.**<sup>1</sup>

- When you know you belong to God, it changes what you’re able to withstand in life.
- ...when you’re filled with **God’s promises** (2 Cor 1:20)
- ...sealed with the **promised Holy Spirit** (Eph 1:3)

<sup>1</sup> Owe this sermon illustration to [Keenan Clark](#)

- ...filled with the **knowledge that God is your Heavenly Father** (2 Cor 6:18)
- ...filled with the **love of Christ** (Ephesians 3:19)
- ...filled with all **joy** and **peace** in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may **abound in hope** (Romans 15:13)
- When you know you belong God—when you’ve been filled with his promises and sealed by his Spirit—you can be confident that that **neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. . .** For all the promises of God find their ‘Yes’ in him, which is why we can shout ‘AMEN’!

## CONCLUSION (VAMP)

But to **receive** God’s promises you first have to **receive God himself**. *Have you done that yet? Have you received him? Could you say right now, with 100% confidence, that you BELONG to God?*

- Joseph’s faith looked forward to the day when his bones would be delivered to the Promised Land (which, BTW, would happen).
- But WE look to a different Deliverer—One who takes us to a different Promised Land.

See many years after Joseph, another Savior would come. He would be **betrayed** and **sold** by his own brothers...**lied about** and **falsely accused**...ultimately **condemned** for the sins of others.

- But he wouldn’t just be put in shackles, **he’d be placed on a Cross**.
- Just like Joseph, Jesus would be **raised from the pit of death to sit on the highest throne of the land in heaven**.

- Just like Joseph, instead of **exacting vengeance** from that throne on the ones who condemned him to death, Jesus would use his position to save those very same people in order to give them eternal life and a relationship with God the Father.
- Just like every story in the Bible, Jesus is the main point.

Joseph’s story isn’t supposed to simply amaze us with his incredible faith...it’s to show you that **you can be confident, no matter your circumstances, cuz God is fully and always in control of all things**.

- Can you confidently say: *I believe God. I belong to God.*

## PRAY

*Let us then approach God’s throne of grace **with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*