

Next Steps:

God wants us to know our purpose and then live into our purpose. We see a general pattern of how this works out in the life of Paul as recorded in Acts 20:22-24. *“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”*

There are four phases seen here:

1. God directs us toward our purpose
2. We don’t have a precise roadmap
3. We encounter potholes and detours
4. We persevere to the destination

Read through the story of Joseph in Genesis 27-50. How do you see these four phases progress in his life, from dream to reality?

What hardships, setbacks, and detours did Joseph have to persevere through during this time?

Where was God during all of these problems?

Joseph had a dream when he was 17 years old that his brothers would bow down to him (Genesis 37:5-11). He then spent 13 years as a slave and a prisoner before he was put in charge of famine relief (Genesis 41:46). There were seven years of abundance during this time (Genesis 41:53). Joseph waited 20 years to see the fulfillment of the dream God gave to him (Genesis 42:1-6).

Sometimes, we have to wait a very long time for the fulfillment of God’s promises.

What dream of purpose has God given you that you are waiting to see fulfilled? What things have you persevered through during this time?

How are you dealing with the problems?

Joseph was able to see God’s providential hand at work when he looked back over his life. He told his brothers, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place 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 50:19-20

Pray and ask God to help you to respond like Jesus as you persevere through from dream to fulfillment.