



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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**H**ave you ever asked yourself, “What in the world am I doing here?”

Sometimes it seems like our lives are on hold. We stand between a rock and a hard place. Our circumstances are anything but appealing. In fact, there is nothing we can see that is good about our circumstances. Our pathway to success has been derailed!

In Genesis 40:14–15, Joseph found himself in a strange land amidst circumstances that seemed unfavorable. His brothers had sold him into slavery. He had become a servant in Potiphar’s household. Then, just when things started going well, he was accused of a crime he did not commit and was thrown in jail.

You may have had a time when you finished your last car payment, the car was a few years old, it still looked good, it was officially yours — and then it broke down with \$1,000.00 in repairs. Maybe you’ve paid off your bills and have opened a savings account, when something came along — an emergency, an unforeseen expense — and derailed your saving plans, placing them on hold.

Even though Christians do not believe in luck, sometimes there is a tiny thought that enters our minds, causing us to believe if we didn’t have “bad luck,” we wouldn’t have any luck at all! Is it wrong to feel forsaken under the circumstances?

If you’ve never read Joseph’s story, this would be a great time to read it. It begins in Genesis 39. In 40:14–15, Joseph tried to get the cupbearer to remember him. He was tired of his situation and

thought he would put the proverbial bug in the cupbearer’s ear so he would remember him when he stood before the king. But the cupbearer forgot. It wasn’t a few weeks or months that went by, but two years, before he remembered. God caused the cupbearer to remember Joseph not a moment too soon, nor a moment too late. Even though the cupbearer forgot, God remembered. Through a series of circumstances created by God, Joseph was elevated to a position he would never have expected possible.

How do we know we will eventually get through our similar circumstances? How do we know we are soon to see the clear shining of sunlight after the rainstorms in our lives? It is at those times when through all of our frustrations, something positive happens in our situation that we know could have only been done by God. Maybe it is an unexpected check in the mail that was customized to fit the exact amount of our debt. Maybe it was a friend who repaired the broken furnace that was going to cost us a few thousand dollars to replace, or the sudden peace we received during a storm that provided reassurance that God was still there.

Maybe you are having a Joseph period of time in your life and there may not be any light at the end of your tunnel. Remember God is still in control. In those times of discouragement when you find yourself going through seemingly unbearable circumstances, just remember you serve a God who is able to do above and beyond all that you think or imagine! (Ephesians 3:20)

*- Dr. L.W. Edwards*

“I get this feeling racing through my veins, this rush. I never get enough. I’m never satisfied. I race to win, and that’s my purpose.” So said Joseph Jenkins in the 2015 film, *Adrenaline*. The only thing which equaled this drag racer’s competitiveness, cockiness, and selfishness was his amazing talent behind the wheel.

Everyone has some life pursuit which delivers this rush. Maybe yours is sports: When the big game is on, you’re completely in the moment and can quote every player’s statistics like the best of the television analysts. Some sports enthusiasts aren’t content to enjoy the action from the sidelines, but have to step on the court or field and play the game to get their emotional high. Perhaps you find fulfillment in teaching, and your tank is full as long as you have a student to mentor. Some may find satisfaction in working, raising a family, serving others, shopping, cooking, baking, reading, writing, decorating, coaching, working out, traveling, or spending time with friends.

### Your Passion – God’s Purpose = Emptiness

Joseph’s passion for drag racing was a good thing. His success gave him a sense of value and meaning in life. But he was driving only at half throttle, because his passion was all about himself. It took a near-fatal car accident, an extended stay in a hospital, the paralysis of both legs, and a few pep talks from his hospital roommate to give him the nitrous boost he needed to succeed.

Elijah Benjamin Salisbury, Joseph’s big-hearted roommate, had a passion of his own. As a high school pitcher with the most strikeouts in the state, Elijah was destined for a career in the big leagues.

Then three bullets permanently altered Elijah’s plans and future. The man who would become his father-in-law shot him three times while in a drunken stupor as Elijah was taking his daughter to the senior dance. The injury left Elijah paralyzed from the waist down, and put him on the waiting list for a heart transplant.

Just about everything Elijah had wanted in life had been taken from him. He could have sat in his hospital bed and felt sorry for himself because he would never realize his life’s passion, but he chose instead to move forward. In so doing, he found a new passion in brightening the lives of other patients undergoing rehabilitation.

Fast forward 40 years. Elijah and Joseph share a hospital room after Joseph’s debilitating car accident. They become friends, and Elijah begins investing in Joseph’s life. As their friendship grows, Elijah counsels, “Every man runs a race; at the end of the race, there’s a prize. For some, it’s money, fame, glory. Those things don’t last forever. So you’ve got to ask yourself, what am I racing for?”

Our passions come from God, and are as diverse as we are. For all the happiness and satisfaction they bring us, without understanding God’s purpose in the pursuit of these passions, we are like sailors embarking on a joy ride without a landing point, builders who begin construction without a budget, and cars

without an engine. The end result is emptiness and a lack of fulfillment.

### God’s Purpose: Proclaim the Gospel

And what might God’s purpose be? “Go into all the world and preach the gospel,” Jesus said in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19. He wants us to proclaim the good news of His death and resurrection so all who believe will receive forgiveness from their sins. The passions He gave us are merely bridges to build relationships which lead to conversations like Elijah and Joseph’s. This isn’t just our pastor’s job. It’s our responsibility, too.

Many of us view evangelism as a scary, outside-my-comfort-zone discipline for spiritual elites. Let’s cut this giant down to size for a moment. Consider this: The first recipients of Jesus’ command to go and preach the gospel were a motley crew of everyday people with real, busy lives of their own. Matthew was the equivalent of an IRS agent; Peter, Andrew, James, and John would have been right at home at . . . [>>> Keep Reading](#)



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