



Monthly Letter from our Minister • July 2009

*(Third of an occasional series on five of Unity's Truth Principles)*

### **WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?**

The third “Key to the Kingdom” or basic principle is: “Human beings create their experiences by the activity of their thinking. Everything in the manifest realm has its beginning in thought.”

Like men and women of today, the Bible is filled with stories of men and women who, although they were trying to live aright were suddenly plunged into the depths of adversity. The Old Testament story of Joseph is one of the most interesting. While little more than a boy, Joseph was snatched by his jealous brothers from the shelter of a doting father’s love and thrown into a pit in the wilderness. Later he was taken from the pit and sold for twenty pieces of silver to wandering merchant men who in turn took him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, a high official in Pharaoh’s army. Joseph decided after thinking it through to serve Potiphar and his household. He was faithful to Potiphar and to his tasks given him. Potiphar’s wife falsely accused him of attempting “to be with me” and he was imprisoned.

Joseph still did not ask, “Why did this, or “any” of this happen to me?” But his quiet goodness and willingness to help others in prison led him to befriend the jailer who in turn made him what we would call today a “trustee.” Then he interpreted dreams of two prisoners. One of those prisoners was released to return to work in Pharaoh’s household and he told the Pharaoh of Joseph’s ability to interpret dreams.

After two years Pharaoh called for him to interpret his dream. Joseph told him the dream was foretelling a 7-year famine Egypt and much of the known world. Pharaoh had a second dream which Joseph, although the details were different, called the second dream the same dream repeated, emphasizing this message was from God, not himself (Joseph). Joseph had more than just the talent of interpreting dreams. His other great gift to himself and to his world was his ability to think. He may have been the first “metaphysician” who ever thought, “Everything in the manifest realm has its beginning in thought.” Because he thought deeply there is not one bit of evidence in Scripture that he resented his brothers for throwing him in a pit, then retrieving him and selling him into slavery. Then sold again by the Ishmaelites to Potiphar of Pharaoh’s army and he was not offended. He appears not to have been offended by Potiphar’s wife who lied about him and caused him to be thrown into prison because he “scorned” her.

Perhaps Joseph’s greatest thought was when he forgave his brothers who came to buy corn from him in Egypt after the famine. He knew none of this was about him. He beautifully spoke to them, “Be not grieved, nor and with yourselves, that Ye sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve life...So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God.” (Genesis 45:5-8 KJV) That’s pretty powerful thinking.

The God that created you is God expressing as you and loves you as you are, and so do I,

Glenn