

Hebrews 13:5 says that God's presence in your life is a guaranteed constant. However, it is vital you realize that you cannot evaluate God's presence and His unmerited favour in your life based on your circumstances. To understand what this means, look at the life of Joseph. Joseph refused the advances made by Potiphar's wife, and as the common saying goes: "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned!" She maliciously accused Joseph of attempting to rape her, brandishing as 'evidence' the garments that Joseph had left in her hands when he fled from her. When Potiphar heard his wife telling her version of the story, his anger was aroused and he seized Joseph, stripped him from the place of authority he had given him, and threw him into prison.

Just put yourself in Joseph's shoes. What is happening here? It sounds all too familiar, doesn't it? With the painful memory of his brothers casting him into the pit still fresh in his mind, here he is once again, cast into a dungeon even though he is innocent. Any average person would be bitter and angry with God. Most people would ask: "Where is God? Why had God brought him this far, only to abandon and forsake him? How could this happen? Where is the justice against this false accusation?" But Joseph was not average. He knew that the LORD would never leave him nor forsake him. Joseph considered not his circumstances, but instead kept his focus on the presence of the LORD. Regardless of whether he was a common slave, an overseer in Potiphar's house, or now a prisoner facing the prospect of life imprisonment for a crime he did not even commit, Joseph did not evaluate God's unmerited favour in his life based on his circumstances. Instead of getting bitter, he kept his hope in the Lord. Instead of 'throwing in the towel' and giving up on God and on life, he kept his confidence, knowing that all his success was wrapped up in the presence of the LORD. As a result the LORD delivered him: "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. The keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper." (Genesis 39:21-23)

What does this tell you? If you refuse to bow to your circumstances, and rather continue to be conscious of the LORD's presence, wherever you are placed, whatever your environment, you will rise to prominence, and whatever you do will prosper!

Psalm 139:7-10 "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to Heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Hell, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast."