

UBN NEWSLETTER

PASTOR MUKHUBA



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#KUZO KHANYA

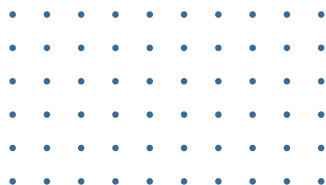
“Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good...”Genesis 1:3-4

These very words are being spoken upon your life as a young person. Darkness has covered the earth, and deep darkness has covered the people, but the Lord shall arise upon you (Isaiah 60). Many young people are engulfed in darkness, doing things that will cause them suffering here on earth and in the life to come. But you, young person, are separated from the crowds through Christ.

The light of Jesus shines upon you. Nothing of darkness remains when the light appears. 2023 is the year of light, and the darkness that brought pain, sorrow, depression, anxiety and blockages is all making way for the light.

Now is the time for extraordinary things in your life. You are going to reach extraordinary heights. Believe it, because that is your destiny in Christ Jesus. You are set to go far in life and do great things. Your dreams have to come to pass. The light shall shine wherever you are, even when you are being tempted or thrown in the pit.

In this newsletter, you shall be empowered to excel like Joseph and given key insights to keep you on track to reach your destiny. Meditate on this word and commit yourself to do as instructed by the Servant of God, Pastor Mukhuba. Treasure these words knowing they are from your destiny helper. Try it and see what the Lord shall do in your life.





EXCEL LIKE JOSEPH

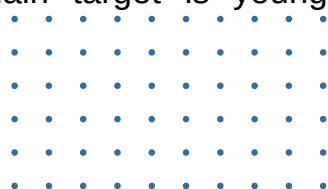
Genesis 37:2-36 "This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more..."

Before we begin to study the life of Joseph, we have to understand that the things that are written in the Bible were written for our learning, so that through patience and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4). Scattered across the Bible are principles that teach us how to live godly lives and keys that open doors of solutions to our problems. However, one has to be a student of scripture to discover all the treasures that are hidden in God's Word.



Paul said to Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:15**, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** Timothy was a young man who was being disciplined by Paul in matters of faith. Being a learned man himself, Paul did not want Timothy to be ignorant and ultimately be despised by his older counterparts. Hence he first advised him in 1 Timothy 4:12 not to allow anyone to look down on him because he was a young man. Not allowing anyone to look down on you involves more than just putting your foot down and refusing to be trampled upon by others. It requires you to take certain steps, which when taken, earn you respect and honour. One of those steps is learning and obtaining knowledge. When you have knowledge on certain matters, you become empowered to engage with others from a position of understanding. People will respect you even though you are young. But the opposite will happen if you engage with nothing in your head—you will be despised and taken for granted. Your prosperity in the Kingdom of God depends on the knowledge you have.

One of the ways God exposes young people to knowledge is to plant them in a Bible teaching ministry where sound doctrine is taught. If you have found such a spiritual home, stay put and give your destiny attention. The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8), and his main target is young people.



He has put up structures at schools and raised agents everywhere to ensure that the curriculum of their learning ultimately destroys their future. At school, very young children are taught about having sex and using condoms. They are encouraged to accept other religious sects, but in not so many words, taught against good Christian values. They are taught to stand against their parents, to be open to homosexuality, to have sex before marriage, to drink alcohol, and have abortions. As a godly young person, you may not be able to remove yourself from the education system because it contains certain good things that are beneficial for your learning. However, you can filter what you are taught and choose to reject ungodly lessons.

Some children, unfortunately, accept demonic teachings from school and friends because they do not know Jesus, and therefore cannot tell the difference between what is right or wrong. Their own parents cannot even teach them because they are so busy trying to solve their own problems. The devil has engulfed them in so many problems to ensure that they give very little attention to their children. They are busy counting cents and wondering how they are going to afford cooking oil and other basic needs; they do not have time to teach their children anything. Children, as a result, end up relying on what they learn at school to approach life.

FIGHT LAZINESS WITH HARDWORK

Joseph's biblical account contains many lessons which young people can draw from and apply in their walk with God. It teaches young people how to deal with being different and about the rewards that come with being patient and holding on to your dream. At 17, an age when most teenagers disobey their parents, experiment with dangerous things, and buy relationships with lies and pretenses, Joseph's attributes of integrity, taking responsibility, excellence, and boldness started showing.

Firstly, we see that he made himself valuable in his family by tending to his father's flocks, something which is completely opposite to what young people of this day do. Most young people are lazy—they expect their parents to do everything for them, and get angry when they have to assist with house chores. They eat, go to bed, get up, and play music and games on their phones. Their parents have to fight with them first before they can even make their own beds.

You first need to understand that you were not called to a life of mediocrity in Christ. You were created in Christ Jesus to do great works (Ephesians 2:10), which means that you must excel in everything you do. The law of reaping and sowing applies to everyone, no matter how old they are. You cannot lay a bad foundation today and expect a good building tomorrow. You have to understand that every step you take today has an impact on your future. Practicing hard work now will set you up for life. You will not struggle to put food on your table in the future and you will earn respect and honour from your peers and those with the power to promote you.

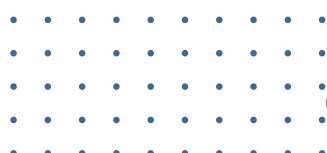
No boss can promote a lazy person who spends the whole day on social media and complains about work. In fact, most lazy people do not even find jobs or establish businesses. They make excuses about everything and end up being hungry and poor. “A lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’” (Proverbs 22:13). Always remember that the seed of excellence you plant today in your youth shall germinate, and you will reap its fruit in the near future when you are an adult. Those who are lazy will have nothing to reap as they did not do anything to shape their future when they had the chance. Joseph started working in his young age, and that won him favour everywhere he went.

EXPOSE THE FRUITLESS DEEDS OF DARKNESS

Joseph lived a different life; he was honest and could not tolerate wrong doing. When his father’s wives’ children misbehaved, he reported them to ensure compliance. He risked being shunned and treated like an outcast. As young as he was, he did not mind being hated for telling the truth, as long as it brought order. Not many young people can take such risks. Most value people’s opinions and live their lives trying to live up to people’s expectations. This is not your portion, child of God. You have to be a determined young person whose life revolves around seeing expectations. This is not your portion, child of God.

You have to be conscious of your identity as one who has been created to do good works. Of course, it will not be easy because people generally cannot stand godly people who refuse to be defiled by sin. They will therefore go all out to make your life miserable. Your holiness reminds them of their sins and makes them feel guilty. Who wants to feel guilty every time they see another person? Nonetheless, do not stop telling the truth and exposing corruption, even if you face rejection. When you expose corruption, the people you are reporting may retaliate by telling lies that implicate you. Do not worry. The Lord promised that no weapon formed against you shall prosper. He will therefore refute any tongue that accuses you (Isaiah 54:17) and vindicate you.

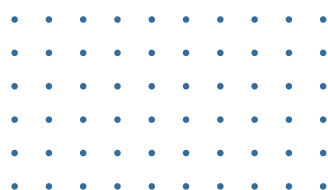
Do not be shocked by their behavior. It is in the nature of sinners to label what is good, bad, and vice versa. Do not be offended when they call you a snitch; this is their way of acknowledging that you are different. Do not even consider joining them because you shall suffer the consequences apportioned for the wicked. The Bible says, “Do not fret because of evildoers...for they shall soon be cut down like the grass and wither as the green herb” (Psalm 37:1-2).



Before you allow your godliness to be eroded by ungodly influences, think of the consequences of wickedness. God wants you to shine like a star of heaven, high above everything else, and be a billboard for His glory. He wants you to be different. If God wanted you to be the same as everyone else, He would have given you the same physical features as other people. He instead gave you a different structure, height, nose, and weight to others. He would have also given you the same gifts and talents as others. You are different because you are called to serve a different purpose. Be courageous and draw strength from the life of Joseph. He never turned away from his godly convictions even when he was thrown in prison for things he did not do. In the end, he became the second most influential person in Egypt. You also have a big role to play here on Earth to ensure continuity. Our world shall go down the drain if everyone conforms to the corruption that is fast destroying everything we have.

Like Joseph, who was given a special robe by his father, you are also given one by your Father in heaven as a sign of His love. Though it may not be visible to the human eye, it reflects through your righteousness and how you conduct yourself.

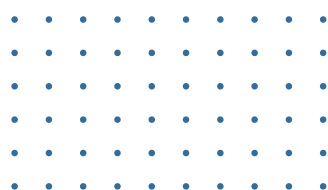
You stand out from the crowds. Even the way you do things is different because your behavior is inspired by the Holy Spirit. You do not walk around with demons that come through fornication, masturbation, lies, and other sins. Even the demons can see it, hence they work tirelessly to make everyone around you hate you. Be bold and hold on. Their abuse will not take away the fact that you are special. Most young people do not care about following Christ, being righteous, and doing good, but you do. This is why you are special. A Bible abiding young person in today's depraved society is a special person, a rare breed, and a weapon of mass destruction in God's hand. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them (Ephesians 5:11).



Joseph did not take a neutral stand by choosing to ignore what was happening. He stood for righteousness and exposed what was wrong. The kingdom of darkness is not resting. They are writing books and influencing everyone on social media to be like them. They do not want to see goodness because it represents God. When you are taught to be accommodating towards people of other beliefs, you are not going to hear them include Christianity. No one is advocating for heterosexuality. Everyone is instead speaking for gays and lesbians. Where are the Josephs who will stand for the truth even if it means being hated, those who put their foot down and refuse to conform to the standards of this world?

BEWARE OF THE DEVIL'S AGENTS ALONG YOUR PATH

In your walk with God, you have to be conscious of the devil's tactics to lure you into sin. If he fails at making you bow through pain and torture, he uses seduction. This is the reason why the Bible urges you to be sober and vigilant. The enemy has positioned agents all over your path and given them a mandate of destroying you. They do not present themselves as evil people, so they can be very difficult to detect.



They pretend to be friends with good intentions, but when you carefully read between the lines through the Holy Spirit, you will start seeing their true colours. They will start influencing you to do things that are outside the will of God. They will invite you to parties and try to introduce you to smoking and drinking. These are some of the red flags you should look out for. No friend who claims to care for you can introduce you to things that will eventually lead you to hell. Some of them will even follow you to church in an effort to convince you to trust them. If your spiritual eyes are open, their true colours will nonetheless show. They will start saying things that are against what your pastor teaches you in church, approving lies, homosexuality, and corruption.

Some of them will try to seduce you to sleep with them in an effort to corrupt that which Christ has made perfect. Your righteousness in Christ offends them, hence they will try so hard to transform you. If you refuse to allow them to lure you into sin, they will become hostile towards you. They will even cook-up non-existent stories about you and slander your name on social media.

All these things are an attempt from darkness to destroy you. The devil knows that God has already prepared good works for you to walk in, and part of the works you must do is to cause havoc in his kingdom. This is the reason why he has placed obstacles along your path.

The challenges you are facing right now at home or school were orchestrated by darkness to stop you from reaching your destiny. You are not the first one to experience opposition from the devil. He also tried to kill Jesus when he realized that He was the Saviour of the world. He is able to detect greatness when he sees it, and his mission is to kill you by surrounding you with people who will lead you to destruction and death. Stay holy and walk blamelessly before the Lord. When you are holy, you are different. If you do not want to be different, you will never discover what God has in store for you. If you do not conform to God's will, your life will be shaped according to the ones you are following.

DREAM BIG

God has deposited great things in each young person, but most of them do not know this. They just find themselves having visions of occupying very big positions and holding leadership roles that seem way bigger than them. Some find themselves admiring influential people who are doing exploits. While their peers dishonour such great people and criticize them, they consider them role models and have nothing but good things to say about them. They follow them closely in an attempt to study their convictions and their journeys to success. They do not understand why because they are still young, but there is a reason for it. They have a special calling that inclines them to greatness. You cannot speak against the people of our own class. Joseph had no idea where his dreams would take him to when he was very young. When he was dreaming of his brothers' sheaves bowing down to his, his brothers were not seeing the same thing. Instead of dreaming of great things, their minds were pre-occupied with jealousy, hatred, and getting up to no good. The devil used their thoughts to influence them to plot evil against their brother, Joseph.

This is unfortunately the fate of young people who are pre-occupied with useless things like pornography, hip-hop, fashion, and trends. Demons take advantage of their ungodly thoughts and inspire them to do ungodly things in order to achieve their ungodly dreams. If you are a young man, they will inspire you to be involved in criminal activities for a living. If you are a young woman, they will encourage you to make money by getting yourself a “blesser” to sleep with. What you ultimately produce through your life is often a result of your contemplations. However, when you dream of great things, the Holy Spirit shall show you the kind of steps to take in order to achieve your dreams.

The Lord will rescue you from every kind of danger to ensure that what you are carrying ends up manifesting. Joseph was sold by the brothers for twenty shekels of silver (verse 28) because they were jealous of him. As a young person who has big dreams, you will always encounter jealous people who will plot against you and betray you. Do not be dismayed. As long as you remain faithful to God, He will never leave you nor forsake you. God will not allow a dreamer to be destroyed or killed. You shall live irrespective of what happens. God preserved Joseph because He had great plans for his life.

The Midianites who bought him from his brothers sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard (verse 36).

YOUR LIGHT WILL NOT BE HIDDEN

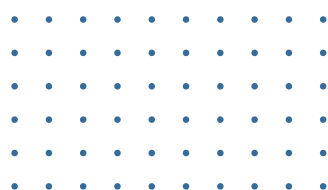
In Potiphar's house, the Lord was with him and he became very successful. Potiphar immediately identified that there was something special about Joseph. He saw that the Lord was with him and caused him to prosper. **“So Joseph found favor in his sight and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority”** **Genesis 39:4.** Joseph's godliness had separated him and his excellent spirit could not be denied. This is what happens when those in power see excellence in young people. They entrust them with responsibilities of overseeing great things. The Lord had poured the oil of favour upon Joseph because he was very obedient. Hence even the ungodly could not deny what was upon him. This is the reason why teachers, even though they do not fear God, are able to identify children with an excellent spirit and make them prefects. Something compels them to give such children accolades.

The Egyptians will favour you even though they do not bow down to your God. When you find a job, your bosses will exalt you to positions of leadership. You are going to be in a place full of unbelievers, but they are going to accept you and make you a leader. Even when in prison, **“the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And 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” (Genesis 39:21-22).**

Big positions followed him even in the most unfavourable places. The reason why he landed in prison was that he was refusing to sin against God. Potiphar’s wife had tried to seduce him into sleeping with her, but he refused. She kept pursuing him, hoping that Joseph would succumb to her advances, but the young man refused to sleep with her. When the woman realized that Joseph was not going to sleep with her, she accused him of rape and he was imprisoned (Genesis 39:7-20).

When you are determined to walk with God and excel in all that you do. The devil will always send “Potiphar’s wives” to seduce you into things like fornication and gaining money illegally. Many young people have become blood drinkers today because of the love for money. They have become young mothers because they are pressured by their peers to date and “enjoy life”. They did not reject the devil when he offered them “nice things”. As a young person, you need to be patient in your walk with God. A time will come when God shall give you everything you have ever desired to have. You are still young. This is a time in your life when you have to learn and invest in your future through hard work.

The devil knows that the Lord will soon make you a sign and wonder amongst your peers, hence you see many “Potiphar’s wives” along your path. Do not despair and wonder how you will resist such kind of temptation. The Lord shall be with you just as He was with Joseph, and you shall overcome. Joseph refused to sin even though the woman was influential and had the power to fire him from his job. He had a choice to sleep with the woman and keep quiet about it, but he refused even though no one was watching him.

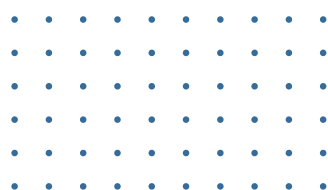


Many young people make excuses about their poor backgrounds whenever they fall into sin. They blame unemployment or lack for getting involved in criminal activities and dating “blessers.” When you do that, you are destroying your own future. You are blocking yourself from achieving the things that God has reserved for you. Stick to doing what is right and the Lord shall see you through like He did for Joseph.

GO OUT THERE AND MAKE AN IMPACT IN PEOPLE’S LIVES

When Pharaoh had a strange dream, the Bible tells us none of the magicians in Egypt could help him. The chief butler who was with Joseph in prison remembered that Joseph once interpreted a dream for him and it came to pass just as he had interpreted. Pharaoh summoned Joseph out of prison, and not only was he able to tell Pharaoh what his dream was, but he also interpreted it (Genesis 41:39-49). Who would have thought that a young man, after going through a series of tragedies, would be promoted to such greatness? Such is the fate of those who hold on to the truth no matter what their challenges are.

The Lord has deposited something in you that is supposed to impact lives, even if you are currently not the brightest student in class. Allow it to be natured by going to church, reading your Bible, studying, and working hard. Like Joseph, you are chosen to preserve life here on Earth. Somebody out there is waiting for you to come up with a solution that will save a company or nation. Somebody out there is waiting for your godly counsel. Joseph found himself in the palace interpreting dreams, times, and giving advice—telling the king what to do so that people in Egypt and throughout the world can live. You have come to Christ so that you can do the same. It does not matter how young you are; you are called for greatness.



If Joseph was not a focused young man who was always on his phone playing games or music, how was he going to hear anything? Would he have been exalted to such a high position by Pharaoh? You will never be a governor like Joseph if you join groups of people who do not have direction in their lives.

Exit all WhatsApp groups which are full of nonsense. You do not belong there. You belong in the league of great people. If they have already initiated you in evil things, confess to your parents or your counsellor, and they will help you. You have a calling of a prime minister, start doing things that will steer you to that direction. Do you think that the future president of this country should come from amongst those who are not saved? You are a Joseph, and you are a leader. You are the head and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13). Be obedient to your God and stay blessed.



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