

## Dream On

### Passing the Tests That Bring Our Dreams to Pass

#### Test #1: The Power Test

*"Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brothers: and they (his brothers) grew to hate him even more."* **Genesis 37:5 (KJV)**

#### I. Introduction

*"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."*  
--Abraham Lincoln

#### II. Leadership Thoughts on Position and Power

- A. God gives us position that we might **BE SOMETHING MORE FOR OTHERS**
- B. God gives us power so that we can **DO MORE FOR OTHERS**
- C. God gives us privilege that we can **GIVE MORE TO OTHERS**
- D. In leadership, we get to **EXPERIENCE MORE**, so we're able to **SHARE MORE WITH OTHERS**
- E. In leadership, God entrusts you with people **and expects you to properly lead them**, and prayerfully take them places (*in life and in their journey with the Lord*) that they perhaps had never even dreamed they'd get to go to!
- F. No set of **external safety measures** or safeguards could ever adequately protect against someone whose heart has truly gone bad or crooked.

*"There is a purpose to the power. The power must serve."* - Anonymous  
*"Ability involves responsibility; power, to its last particle, is duty."* - Alexander MacLaren

#### III. Facing the Four Critical Truths About Power

1. The power test will usually be the \_\_\_\_\_ test for people to deal with.

*"The purity of silver and gold can be tested in a crucible, but **a man is tested by his reaction to men's praise.**"* Proverbs 27:21 (TLB)

*"So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. **He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!"** Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt."*  
**Genesis 41:41-43**

2. We must never allow any power or position to \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Because of the kindness that God has shown me, I ask you **not to think of yourselves more highly**"*

**than you should.** Instead, your thoughts should lead you to use good judgment based on what God has given each of you as believers.” **Romans 12:3 (GW)**

**“But a rich man should be glad that his riches mean nothing to the Lord,** for he will soon be gone, like a flower that has lost its beauty and fades away, withered—killed by the scorching summer sun. So it is with rich men. They will soon die and leave behind all their busy activities.” **James 1:10-11**

“Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and **as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.** God helped Uzziah and his fame spread far and wide, for **he was marvelously helped till he became strong.** And he was famous all over the world. However, **Uzziah became proud of his power, and this led to his downfall.**” **II Chronicles 26:1-23**

***“Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” - Lord Acton***

***“Never get carried away with success to the extent that you forget the Success-giver, and begin to think that it is by your power.” - George Bloomer***

**3. We must never allow power to go \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is excess, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...”

**Ephesians 5:15-19 (NASB)**

“(let us live)...always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and **be submitted to one another in the fear of Christ.**” **Ephesians 5:20 (NASB)**

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” **Proverbs 27:17**

**Victory’s Leadership examples of this principle:**

- We have a board of trustees
- We never personally have anything whatsoever to do with handling weekly offerings
- We have a plurality of Eldership here (with the buck stopping with us, of course)
- We empower believers to discover and flow in who Jesus has made them to be
- We teach the value of wise counsel, but we balance that by teaching believers the necessity and Biblical importance of hearing from God for themselves
- We are submitted to the counsel of trusted, seasoned ministers in our lives

*"Submission is not weakness; submission is power under control."---anonymous*

4. We must never \_\_\_\_\_ our power, or allow our power to \_\_\_\_\_.

*"...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how **He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,** because God was with Him." Acts 10:38*

*"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. **He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.** When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." II Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT)*

*"Each of you has been blessed with one of **God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others.** So use your gifts well." I Peter 4:10 (CEV)*

*"It is for us to pray not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks, to go forward with a great desire forever beating at the door of our hearts as we travel toward our distant goal."---Helen Keller*

*"We must have a spirit of power towards the enemy, a spirit of love towards men, and a spirit of self-control towards ourselves."---Watchman Nee*

## **ANSWER KEY:**

- 1. TOUGHEST**
- 2. GO TO OUR HEAD**
- 3. UNCHECKED**
- 4. MISUSE-----GO TO WASTE**