

How do you know you are on God's Detour and not just that things are not working out?

How do I know this is a Detour that God has put me on so that I know I'm on a Detour **IN** His will and not **OUT** of His will?

There are four proofs that you are on God's Detour towards your destiny from the life of Joseph:

1. **Proof #1** that you are on God's Detour for your Destiny is that **you are being persecuted for righteousness' sake-**

- You are suffering because of good not bad.
- V. 19- "When his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, your servant did to me after this manner, that his anger was aroused. Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison."
- Joseph is in the prison because he was accused of a rape he didn't commit.

When you are being persecuted – suffering – or struggling because you are obeying God; your struggle is right where God wants you to be!

- You are being persecuted for righteousness sake.
- **Persecution** = "To be treated in an evil manner."
- Matt. 5:10-12: says there is blessing for those persecuted for righteousness sake: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."
- Daniel was thrown into the lion's den because he would not compromise his faith while he was on the job. Daniel 6.
- Meshach – Shadrach – Abed-Nego were thrown into the fiery furnace because they would not bow to an idol and worship. Daniel 3.
- **They suffered the repercussions of a decision that they were unwilling to compromise due to their faith.**

It is unfortunate that today there is a growing number of Christians who are unwilling to bear consequences for their commitment to their faith.

Being persecuted for **righteousness** sake is the opposite of being persecuted for **unrighteousness** sake!

- 1Peter 2:20-21 “What credit is it if when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.
For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”
- If you are persecuted for being in the wrong – that is nothing to be excited about! There is no reward for that – you deserve the persecution you are receiving.
- But being persecuted when you have obeyed God and you are doing right – that carries a special blessing from God.

Point: If you are serious about your faith there will be repercussions.
You don’t have to go looking for them; they know your address!

Joseph is suffering for his faith and he is right in the middle of the will of God!

v. 20 - it wasn’t a pleasant place

“He was placed in the king’s prison and confined.”

Prison – Jail = “**dungeon**”

- Many people think because things are going bad they/others are out of the will of God.
- No, if you were doing right and things are going bad – you are in the middle of God’s will – you are on a Detour to your Destiny.

2. **The second proof** you are on a Divine Detour is: **While you are being persecuted and suffering for righteousness sake – God shows you His presence:**

- The second proof you are on His Detour is that He doesn’t take you **OUT** of it, but He joins you **IN** it.
- God didn’t keep Daniel **from** the lion’s den, but He joined him **IN** the lion’s den.
- God didn’t keep Shadrach – Meshach and Abed-Nego **from** the fiery furnace; but He joined them **IN** it as the Fourth Person.

Point: God may not cut off the Detour; but He joins you in your Detour!

v. 21- “But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”

v. 23- “Because the Lord was with him...” as he was in jail being persecuted.

If you are obeying God and things are not going well – it means you are on a Detour!

The secret to Joseph's success was – God was with him! Even in Jail!

The key to your situation is:

Not just where you are - but whose there with you while you are there?

But - if you are suffering for wrongness sake and not righteousness sake; you need to make the wrong right so that God can join you.

- You may not be experiencing God because you are not there for His reasons.
- You are there for your reasons – so get that right so God can join you.

How did God show up with Joseph?

v. 22- “The chief jailor/keeper of the prison committed to Josephs’ hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.”

- Joseph received a promotion in jail.
- **God didn't change the situation** – he's still in jail – but he gets promoted in jail.
- So God shows up not by delivering Joseph out of it, but by showing His presence **IN** it.
- When God shows up and gives you a hint of His presence in the middle of a situation He's not yet ready to take you **OUT** of.

Question: You may be thinking; but how do I really know its God and not just circumstances?

The way you know its God showing up is when He joins you for a **second time!**

Gen. 39 - 1. In the earlier part of the chapter; Joseph is in Potiphar's house and is made a ruler over the entire house –

2.**NOW** – he's in jail. What does the jailer do – He promotes Joseph to be head of everything!

The Biblical principle is that by two or three witnesses let everything be confirmed. There are now two witnesses confirming to Joseph that God is with him and promoting him on his Detour to Destiny.

God showing up twice in the same type of scenario is God confirming that it's not chance, It's not luck, it's not just happening – God is showing up to give a double witness.

He is in jail – who took him to jail? – Potiphar, who did Potiphar take Joseph to? – The chief jailor –

So Potiphar takes Joseph to the chief jailor – so Potiphar knows the chief jailor, because the chief jailor is under Potiphar who is under Pharaoh and it's Pharaoh's prison and

Potiphar is the captain of the body guard to Pharaoh.

That means that the chief jailor has to answer to Potiphar whose is in direct command under Pharaoh.

Gen. 40: 4 - “And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them; and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.”

- Potiphar’s wife falsely accused Joseph of rape – Potiphar’s angry and places Joseph in the custody of the chief jailer, who recognizes that Joseph is good, so he puts him in charge of the whole prison.
- Gen. 40 – Potiphar comes again bringing two prisoners from Pharaoh’s house – the baker and the butler [wine taster] – special people from the house of Pharaoh – and put them in the care of **Joseph**.
- Why would Potiphar, whose wife accused Joseph of raping her, put these special prisoners under the care of Joseph if he was guilty of this? –
UNLESS HE REALLY KNEW MRS. POTIPHAR.

Potiphar knew something about Joseph that didn’t fit the accusation against him by his own wife.

He had worked with Joseph and knew him – so he set Joseph up for a promotion in a bad situation!

God can take YOUR bad situation – a bad Detour and work it out for your good.

2nd proof that God is in your situation is that He shows up in the situation and causes good to happen in the bad environment.

3. Proof #3 – When God gives you a ministry to people who are going through the same thing you are going through-

God gives you people to serve while you are suffering:

Gen. 40:1-3 “It came to pass after these things that the butler [wine taster, cup bearer] and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker. So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard] – [Potiphar, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.”

These two officials of Pharaoh have something in common: Food for the Pharaoh.

- Job of the cup bearer was to taste the wine to insure it was not poisoned to kill Pharaoh.
- Job of the baker was to prepare the meals for the Pharaoh and insure it was safe.

Something is bothering Pharaoh about these two men to have them jailed – v. 20- tells about Pharaoh’s birthday was to be celebrated and a feast was set up and these two men were brought out of prison.

Pharaoh restored the cup bearer, but had the baker hanged.

Perhaps Pharaoh was made aware of a plot to assassinate him and it was determined the baker was part of that plan.

Who would have figured out that God was going to use two criminals to hold the key to Joseph’s destiny?

God can take people in your path that are going through the same thing you’re going through and they are part of the plan for your destiny.

We get selfish with our suffering! V. 6 - God brought these two men and Joseph saw that they were in turmoil.

“Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and sad that they were sad.”

Joseph was concerned about them in their dejection while he is in this prison with no way out!

Point: One of the ways God moves you through your Detour is through your ministry to others.

If you are unwilling to minister to somebody else – you could be delaying your own destiny by increasing your own Detour because you are selfish and self centered and focused on yourself – that you are missing the blessing of the ministry to somebody else.

Vv. 8-11 They told Joseph their story and their dreams.

- Joseph tells the cup bearer he will be released and restored in three days.
- He tells the baker he will be released but hanged in three days.

God gave Joseph the opportunity to use his gift of dreams and the interpreting dreams with these two servants of Pharaoh:

- Joseph helps somebody with their dreams while he is waiting for his dreams to be fulfilled since he was 17; now he’s in his 20’s.
- **If you want to see God show up in your Detour – hook up and help some others on their detour and minister/serve them.**
- **Don’t miss a God moment just because you’re on your Detour.**
- **The Detour is a God moment!**

- 2Cor. 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of **all** comfort, who comforts us in **all** our tribulation, **that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble-tribulation, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**”

Whatever you need for God to do for you; look for ways to minister/serve someone else.

4. Proof # 4 - the 4th way you know you are right where you are supposed to be in God’s Detour is when: **God postpones your release!**

Joseph interprets the dreams of the tow officials of Pharaoh – they are released and the dreams come to pass just as interpreted.

Gen. 40: 14-15

“But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon.”

- Joseph had just given the cup bearer life changing news of his future with being restored and asked; please just remember me when you are restored.
- Do this brother a favor!
- Let Pharaoh know who I am and that I have done no wrong deserving of this jail.
- Joseph wanted out of the place he was in – he was weary of the detour he was on.

v. 23- “Yet the chief cup bearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”

- How does one forget somebody who gave them life saving news and encouragement; unless the Detour was not over yet?
- Joseph plan to have Pharaoh alerted was not God’s plan ---- YET!

You are exactly where you are supposed to be when it looks like God has you on the precipice of deliverance – when He’s just about to come through for you and you can see the hand writing on the wall of how He will do it – victory is right on the horizon – **but the plan turns left! ??????????**

- When God goes left on you right when it looks like He was going to deliver you; That’s proof positive that you are right where you are supposed to be!

God has a specific reason for postponement!

You become like Martha and Mary: “Lord Do you not care?”

Like Peter and the disciples in the boat: “Lord does you not care that we perish?”

How can you let me go through this, if in fact You care?

- It looked like the right person-
- It seemed to be the right job opening –
- The percentage rate was good and the return was going to be maximized –
- It looked like the right business deal and with the right people –
- It looked like it was going to be the way You provided the blessing You promised.

It looked like – It looked like - It looked like!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
But now it's gone left on you.

You are right where God wants you to be!

The cupbearer couldn't remember Joseph and what he had done for him for 2 years!

Anybody here today that feels STUCK – and feels God has forgotten you?

- You're doing all the right things – KEEP DOING THEM!
- He showing you little clues of His presence.
- You're willing to ministry to those going through what you are going through.
- And your dreams are still being postponed?

You are perfectly situated now for God to bring you out of your Detour bringing you into the Destiny for your life in Him.