

**TRUE COLORS - Part 1**  
**“Perseverance In The Pits”**  
**March 13, 2011**

**Memory Verse: James 1:2-3** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (NIV)*

*Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well developed, not deficient in any way. (Message)*

***If you are confident that God is WITH you, then...***

**MESSAGE: Persevere the “pits” with hope!** When God is WITH you, his power will accomplish his purpose!

**TEXT: Genesis 37** Along with Joseph, we are all tempted to “give out, give in, and give up” when tests and trials come.

**A. God uses family trials to accomplish his purposes in us.**

1. Joseph was the favorite son in a family filled with deceit and violence. *But Joseph learned God was WITH Jacob.*
2. God gifted Joseph with revelation through dreams.
3. Joseph's gifts alone were not enough to accomplish God's EPIC purposes. *He had to develop the godly character trait of perseverance!*
  - a. *“Coats” of status & self-sufficiency are not enough!*
4. The only way to develop perseverance is to discover God is WITH you in the “pit.” *Faith has to supersede feelings!*

**Application:**

1. What family trial feels like a “pit” you've fallen into?
2. What would you do if you were confident that God was WITH you and His power would accomplish His purpose?

**TRUE COLORS - Part 1: Study Guide**

**Message: Persevere the “Pits” with Hope!**

*When God is WITH you, His power will accomplish His purpose!*

**Matthew 1:23** *Immanuel” means “God with us”.*

**1. What does it mean to you to know God is WITH you?**

**2. What would it mean for you to “glory in your suffering”?**

**Romans 5:3-5** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but **we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (NIV © 2011)***

**3. What difference will it make in your ability to persevere the “pits” when you put your hope (wait) in the Lord”?**

**Isaiah 40:** <sup>27</sup> *Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”?* <sup>28</sup> *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. <sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup> **Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope (wait) in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.***