

***Choosing Our North Star***  
***Genesis 39:21-40:8 & 40 20-23***

The Biblical character Joseph whose story is told in Gen. 37-50 knew the \_\_\_\_\_ of false imprisonment. Like Joseph, we have all felt the sting of injustice. And like Joseph, we have \_\_\_\_\_ main choices. We can be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We can \_\_\_\_\_—recant a bright future, better days. We can \_\_\_\_\_—press on trusting God's plan and purpose.

Blaming is an exercise in living in the \_\_\_\_\_—shifting to reverse—going backward to make someone or something \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ for the pain we have endured. God's word commands \_\_\_\_\_ remembering. We must discipline ourselves to focus on the memories that \_\_\_\_\_ us and deny a power to those that \_\_\_\_\_. When you hold on to bitterness and blame from injustice, you are selecting \_\_\_\_\_ food from the buffet of reflection.

Our next option is \_\_\_\_\_, succumbing to the \_\_\_\_\_, shifting into neutral, wallowing in self-pity, sometimes self-loathing. It is surrendering. We too can choose to believe we're stuck in a \_\_\_\_\_ of never-changing injustice. What a tragedy when a child of the God chooses to \_\_\_\_\_ in a pigsty of self-pity rather than \_\_\_\_\_ and go to the Father where even servants have food to spare.

The right choice is to \_\_\_\_\_. Hoping is \_\_\_\_\_ focused, shifting into \_\_\_\_\_, pressing on to the prize, running with endurance the race. Your confident hope for the future, your \_\_\_\_\_, shapes you as much as your past or present \_\_\_\_\_.

Somehow Joseph knew that when injustice raged, he had to \_\_\_\_\_ toward the God-promised hope to which he was called and the glory to be received. Only the compelling vision of things \_\_\_\_\_ by God yet unseen could he keep his life from shriveling into nothing more than things as they \_\_\_\_\_ or as they \_\_\_\_\_.

Only when we let God's promised future of life abundant and eternal be our \_\_\_\_\_ can we capture and \_\_\_\_\_ the injustices of life into their pit so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ of ours.