

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

Keep on going on, pressing on

Devotion done by Ess-jee Rautenbach and Edited by Marc Vivier



Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

The word "press" means to exert (put out) steady (firm) weight or force against; to advance

eagerly;to push forward.

Maybe you are in financial difficulty, your marriage is struggling or you're just facing so

many impossible circumstances. There seems to be no hope for you. You feel that you

can break any day now and you think to yourself that it's better if you just stay in bed today.

I know of many believers facing these scenarios everyday.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the

earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of

*Jacob is our stronghold. Selah. **Psalm 46:1-3,7***

I want to encourage you today to have good faith. There is always hope for you no matter

how impossible your circumstances may seem. Let's go back a few thousand years when

David faced so many big giants. He faced the biggest giant of them all, Goliath. Everybody

was so scared of this big man, striking terror right through the kingdom of God's people.

Even Saul the mighty king didn't wish to face this mighty man. Instead, a small and young

boy took it upon himself, put his faith in God, and defeated Goliath with just a rock and

slingshot.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

Samuel 17:41 The Philistine kept coming closer to David, with his shield bearer walking in front of him

*.
17:42*

When the Philistine looked carefully at David, he despised him, for he was only a ruddy and handsome boy. 17:43

The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you are coming after me with sticks?" Then the Philistine cursed

David by his gods. 17:44 The Philistine said to David, "Come here to me, so I can give your flesh to the birds of

the sky and the wild animals of the field!"

17:45 But David replied to the Philistine, "You are coming against me with sword and spear and javelin

.

*But I am coming against you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel's armies, whom you have defied!
!*

17:46 This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand! I will strike you down and cut off your head.

This day I will give the corpses of the Philistine army to the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the land.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

Then all the land will realize that Israel has a God 17:47 and all this assembly will know that it is not by sword

or spear that the Lord saves! For the battle is the Lord's, and he will deliver you into our hand."

17:48 The Philistine drew steadily closer to David to attack him, while David quickly ran toward the battle line

to attack the Philistine. 17:49 David reached his hand into the bag and took out a stone. He slung it, striking the

Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank deeply into his forehead, and he fell down with his face to the ground.

17:50 David prevailed over the Philistine with just the sling and the stone.

He struck down the Philistine and killed him. David did not even have a sword in his hand.

17:51 David ran and stood over the Philistine. He grabbed Goliath's sword, drew it from its sheath, killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they ran away.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

There are many stories like this giving us hope that we can achieve anything if we just don't

quit believing in our victory who is Jesus Christ. Some of you may feel that you're on your

knees or already on your back on the ground. It doesn't matter in what position you find

yourself, the main thing is that you keep on moving, even if you crawl, just don't stop moving.

One day you will find yourself standing again and you'll wonder how.

We must keep on pressing on till our victory comes and not give up or give in.

The enemy also knows that if he can just stare us down long enough we will give up.

The secret is that we must take a stand till our breakthrough comes.

Most Christians just have a horizontal growth and not a vertical one.

Not breaking through that stronghold.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

Let's travel back in time one more time. Remember Joseph?

He was sold as a slave by his own family.

And to top that he was wrongfully accused and found himself in deeper trouble

second time around. I think to myself he had all these promises

God made him but he just experienced rejection, pain etc his whole life so far.

What was going on? I think he asked God but why,

I'm only struggling and just going backwards.

But Joseph knew His God is a faithful God and even if sometimes he didn't

understand everything, he knew the plans God had for him was to prosper

him and not to harm him.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

One day the pharaoh of Egypt called him in and asked him to give meaning

to his dreams and with God's knowledge Joseph did it with ease.

Joseph became a ruler and was appointed by the pharaoh over all of Egypt.

GEN : 5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more

.6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:7

8 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright,

while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the

matter in mind.18 But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them,

they plotted to kill him.19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20

"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and

say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his

dreams."21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said.

22 "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert,

but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and

take him back to his father.23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing--

24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

5 As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of

Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm

and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.26

6 Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

27 *Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him;*

after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers

agreed.2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered,

and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD

was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he

owned.5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that

he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph.

The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

6 *So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he*

did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph

was well-built and handsome,7 and after a while his master's wife took notice

of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has

entrusted to my care.

9 *No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld*

nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do

such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

10 *And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed*

with her or even be with her.

11 *One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the*

household servants was inside.

12 *She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he*

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,

14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger.

20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison,

21 the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

40:1 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

2☐ *Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,*

3☐ *and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined.*

4☐ *The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time,*

5☐ *each of the two men--the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison--had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.*

6☐ *When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected.*

7☐ *So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"*

8☐ *"We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."*

9☐ *So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me,*

10☐ *and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it*

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes.

11□ Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

12□ "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days.

13□ Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.

14□ But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison.

15□ For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

16□ When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread.

17□ In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

18□ "This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days.

19 *Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh."*

20 *Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials:*

21 *He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand,22 but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. 23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. 41:1*
When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile,

2 *when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds.*

3 *After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank.*

4 *And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.*

5 *He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk.*

6 *After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted--thin and scorched by*

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

the east wind.

7 *The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then*

Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

8 *In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians*

and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could

interpret them for him.

9 *Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my*

shortcomings.

10 *Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the*

chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard.

11 *Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of*

its own.

12 *Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the*

guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each

man the interpretation of his dream.

13 *And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was*

restored to my position, and the other man was hanged."

14 *So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the*

dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

Pharaoh.

15] *Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it.*

But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

16] *"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."*

17] *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile,*

18] when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds.

19] *After them, seven other cows came up--scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt.*

20] *The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first.*

21] *But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up.*

22] *"In my dreams I also saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk.*

23] *After them, seven other heads sprouted--withered and thin and scorched by the east wind.*

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

24 *The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none could explain it to me."*

25 *Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.*

26 *The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream.*

27 *The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.*

28 *"It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.*

29 *Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt,*

30 *but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in*

Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land.

31 *The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.*

32 *The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.*

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

33 *"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.*

34 *Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.*

35 *They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.*

36 *This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."*

37 *The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials.*

38 *So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"*

39 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.*

40 *You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."*

41 *So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole*

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01

*land
of Egypt
."*

42 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.

43 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

44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."

45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt.

Even when things may seem lost, its not.

Keep on going on, pressing on

Written by EssJee

Thursday, 24 March 2011 06:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 March 2011 07:01
