

# Gratitude that Transforms

I THESSALONIANS 5:18

## Gratitude In Every Season [Genesis 45:1–15; 50:15–21]

**Big Idea:** Deep gratitude flows from a heart that knows how deeply it's been forgiven.

- I. **Gratitude in the Season of Revelation**  
[Genesis 45:1–3]
- II. **Gratitude in the Season of Reconciliation**  
[Genesis 45:4-11]
- III. **Gratitude in the Season of Restoration**  
[Genesis 45:12-15]
- IV. **Gratitude in the Season of Testing**  
[Genesis 50:15-18]
- V. **Gratitude in the Season of Perspective**  
[Genesis 50:19-21]
  - [a] **Gratitude Releases Revenge [50:19]**  
"Am I in the place of God?" [1 Peter 5:6]
  - [b] **Gratitude Sees Redemption in the Wound [50:20]**  
"You meant evil... but God meant it for good."  
[Romans 8:28]
  - [c] **Gratitude Continues to Provide [50:21]**  
Joseph's promise, "I will provide for you and your little ones." [Psalm 103:5-18]

### Study Questions and Prayer

- [1] Read Genesis 45:4-15 How does Joseph's response to his brothers in these verses demonstrate gratitude and forgiveness despite their betrayal?
- [2] Read Genesis 50:20. In this verse, Joseph acknowledges that God used his brothers' actions for good. How can we trust God's plan even in difficult circumstances?
- [3] Read Genesis 50:19-21. What steps can we take to release feelings of revenge and embrace gratitude, as Joseph did?
- [4] Pray asking God to help you release bitterness, choose gratitude, and trust His redeeming work in every season, and to lead your heart to reflect His love and forgiveness.

[Genesis 45:1-3] Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. [43:31] He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. [Acts 7:9-16]

[Genesis 45:4-15] So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. [7:28] <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. [50:20, Psalm 105:16-17] <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither [41:30] plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. [45:26, 41:43] <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. [46:34, 47:1, 4:6, 27, 50:8, 47:11, Exodus 8:22, Joshua 10:4] <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' [47:12 50:21] <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. [42:23] <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." [Acts 7:14] <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

[Genesis 50:15-21] When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup> So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." [49:25] Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." [37:7,10] <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.