

# HEART-TO-HEART

*We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.*



*And over all these virtues put  
on love, which binds them all  
together in perfect unity.  
Colossians 3:14*

## *United In Love*

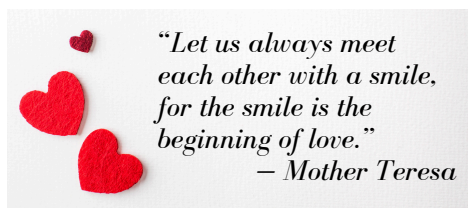
The month of February is all about “love.” As followers of Christ, we know that He gave us two commandments that are all about love - love God and love others.

There are situations happening within our State, our nation, and our world that are causing divisions among people. It seems to be getting worse. But one thing that we can count on in this chaotic world, is the love of Christ and the love from His church.

Church is a good place to practice loving others. Do you have interactions with all of the folks who attend worship service with

you? Do you know what others are going through and how to support them? In practicing loving others who are part of the church, we can then start to build on it by loving others outside of that group too.

When we stand together as the body of Christ and encourage one another faithfully, we bring glory to God. We have to show others what it looks like to be united in love so that everyone can experience God’s glory and desire to know Him.



## *IN THIS ISSUE*

Joseph’s Timeline

Godly Relationships

Glitter - Love It or Leave It

## Joseph's Timeline

by Pastor Gary Lau / [gary@LearntheBibleFast.com](mailto:gary@LearntheBibleFast.com)

One of the distinctives of Joseph's story in Genesis is the number of times his age is mentioned which allows us to create a detailed timeline for him.

Joseph's story begins in Genesis 37 when he is tending flocks at age 17 (Genesis 37:2). This is around the time he received an ornate robe from his father and had two dreams of his brothers bowing before him.

Joseph then gets sold into slavery and is sent to Egypt where he is falsely accused of sleeping with Potiphar's wife and is sent to prison. During his time in prison he interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. This happens when Joseph is approximately 28 years old. How do we know this? In Genesis 41:1 it says, "When two full years had passed..." Keep this in mind.

When Pharaoh has two dreams, Joseph successfully interprets them and is made the prime minister of Egypt at 30 years old (Genesis 41:46). (This is how we know Joseph was 28 when he interpreted the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker - two years had passed (Gen. 41:1) before he was made prime minister of Egypt at age 30 (Gen. 41:46)).

Pharaoh's dream revealed seven years of good harvest which would be followed by seven years of famine. During the seven years of good harvest, Joseph stored grain in silos (Genesis 41:49). By the end of the seven years of good harvest Joseph would have been 37 years old.

When the famine came, it not only affected the people in Egypt, but Joseph's father and brothers in Canaan (Genesis 42:1-2). When Joseph's brothers bowed before him, this fulfilled the dreams Joseph had at age 17 (Genesis 37:5-11). But how old was Joseph when the brothers bowed before him?

When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, he said, "For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping" (Genesis 45:6). Thus, Joseph was 39 years old when his brothers bowed before him (30 years old when he became prime minister + 7 years of good harvest + 2 years of famine = 39 years).

We can also calculate how many years it took for Joseph's dreams to be fulfilled - 17 years old when he had the dream of his brothers bowing before him and 39 years old when the brothers actually bowed before him - a difference of 22 years. It took 22 years for Joseph's dreams to be fulfilled.

Joseph lived 110 years (Genesis 50:22). Thus, he had lived in Egypt for about 93 years.

(timeline on next page)

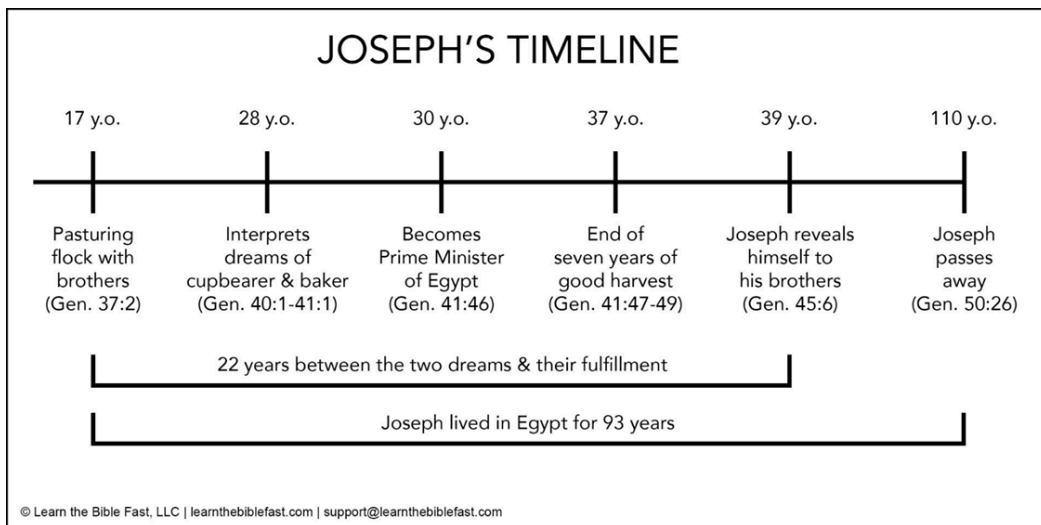


*Joseph's story is one of faith, humility, forgiveness, and love.*

*"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love."*

*- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Joseph's Timeline cont.



*"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."*

— William Penn



## Godly Relationships

by Jeanne Nagatani

A devotional by Charles Stanley caught my attention:

*Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*

*Godly relationships are those in which there is a willingness to say, "I don't have to have things my way all the time. I'm willing to submit my desires to your desires, my preferences to your preferences." Certainly, we are never called to compromise our values, our faith in Christ Jesus... We are, however, to mature to the point that we are more concerned about what happens to another person than we are concerned about what happens to us.*

I was raised an only child for the first 8 years of my life. Everything centered around me - I was selfish.

In reflecting upon my life, I realize that I grew up to be a selfish adult. It's hard to think of others when you're only concerned about yourself. I've had a lot of lessons from Jesus about this topic. By studying the Bible, He has shown me how a believer should be. It's taken a while for me to learn how to be more generous; I'm still learning. It's a good thing that He is so forgiving. And I learn from other believers who have shown me grace.

Sometimes I still forget that it's not all about me, but Jesus is there to remind me that He loves me and helps me to change to become a better person.

Thank you, Jesus for your mercy, grace, and forgiveness and for showing me how I'm supposed to glorify you.



## *Glitter - Love It or Leave It*

by Julie Morita

Did you know that Pastor Jason doesn't like glitter? That was hilarious to me when I first heard about it during Christmas as we decorated the church. Glitter is a common childhood art tool. It evokes memories of fun times full of color and wonder. It's sparkly and shiny. Why wouldn't he like glitter?

The other day as I was vacuuming the church, I would see sparkles of light - glitter everywhere - on the carpet, on chairs, on the baseboards. As much as I cleaned, I never got it all. That got me thinking. Is glitter like sin? It seems like fun, but after all the excitement of using it, it's messy, gets everywhere and becomes a nuisance. My brother once told me that sin is like a little spot of dirt on your white clothes. As you brush it away, you think that you're all good, then you notice another spot and then another. Sin is sneaky. No matter how good we think we are, we still sin. Same like glitter. You think that it's gone, then as the light hits an area, nope, there's another speck or two there.

So maybe Pastor Jason was on to something. Glitter might be like sin and that's why he doesn't like it. Is he that insightful?

Or can we view glitter like a reminder of God's presence - no matter how much you want to get away from it, once it's sprinkled, there's traces of it everywhere?

I guess it's a matter of perspective. Things that make you go hmm.....

*"Every day is a great day to give love,  
spread joy, and sparkle!"*

*- Sheri Fink*



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*"Through God, everyone sparkles."  
- John Ericson*

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