

### **Transforming Daily**

*“ . . . that your words may be tested to see if there is any truth in you . . . ”*  
*Genesis 42:16*

The plot in the storyline of Joseph and his brothers thickens. They reveal to Joseph who they are, but Joseph does not reveal to them who he is. In an attempt to get Joseph's father, younger brother, and the whole nation of Israel out of Canaan to Egypt, Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies. Of course they object and insist that they are honest men all the while knowing, and confessing one to another, that for their treatment of Joseph they are neither honest men nor guiltless in receiving the taunting accusations and imprisonment by Joseph.

At this point, the brothers of Joseph were being honest with Joseph, and Joseph knew that. However, he also knew not only what they were capable of, but how they had already treated him in the past. What complicated matters even more was that Joseph knew who they were, who he was, who God was, and what it was that God was doing, and going to do, through all of them. On the other hand, his brothers were totally clueless. All they could see was the immediate need in front of them, to feed their stomachs, and that possibly what they were experiencing was due to their previous conduct against Joseph (v.21-23). The tables had definitely turned. What got Joseph into Egypt, the word of his brothers, would be the very instrument that would get his brothers and family out of Canaan, their word.

Words are powerful, and when they concern the things of God, they are even more so. That's why it is imperative for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to not only match their walk with their talk, but they need to be careful of what they say, in general, and how they say it. The believer also needs to be aware that he or she is always under scrutiny for their testimony by those around them, by other believers and non-believers alike; and rightly so. As the apostle Paul told Peter when Peter was acting hypocritical, in Galatians 2:14, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?" In other words, "If you, being a believer, live in the manner of unbelievers and not as believers, why do you compel unbelievers to live as believers?"

How does your life compare to your words? Do you find yourself in hypocrisy more times than you like? Is God's Word the direction for your decision making? Can others trust your word? What do other believers say about your lifestyle as it compares to the word of God? All of us need to be careful in this regard. Make sure that your words may be tested to see if there is any truth in you.