

# **“with” Nearness = Godliness**

## **“The Testing of Joseph”**

**(Genesis 37-50)**

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**May 21, 2006**

The term “with” is a very basic term, and lacks real significance on its own. We use it all the time. The term “with,” as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, means to be in the company of, or to accompany. According to Strong’s, the Hebrew term ‘eth (ayth) or “with” suggests “nearness” or to be “by” or “among.”

What becomes significant about this term in English or Hebrew is whom you are actually “with.” You can be “with” someone of questionable character or no particular significance, or with someone of character and greatness. Who you are “with” or who is “with” you does make a difference.

We are told the Lord was “with” Joseph! So, what was the evidence?

## "the Lord was 'with' Joseph..."

● It does not mean the absence of:

➤ **suffering.**

➤ **betrayal.**

➤ **trials.**

➤ **abuse/neglect.**

➤ **victimization.**

➤ **tragedy.**

● It does mean the visible quality of godliness:

➤ "Withness" = **witness**

● Joseph's "withness" was demonstrated by:

➤ His **perseverance.**

➤ His response to **authority.**

➤ His ability to identify **sin.**

➤ His response to **temptation.**

- **supernatural** ability.
- Ability to show **grace** and **mercy**.
- His desire to go **home**.

### Your “withness” = Witness!

- Read your Bible with **passion**.
  - Pray to God without **ceasing**.
  - Submit in humble **obedience**.
1. How is your “withness” doing?
  2. What needs to change?
  3. What should stay the same?
  4. How would others describe you?

# NOTES