

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:16 – 46:6

True Spiritual Growth

As soon as the brothers of Joseph reached the land of Canaan, they informed Jacob about Joseph being alive in Egypt and how the Lord had exalted him in authority all over that land. He was also told that Joseph wanted the entire family to come to Egypt and be fed during that famine. Though at first he couldn't believe it, he later believed. He immediately did not decide to leave. When he went to Beersheba and offered sacrifices unto the Lord, God said, "Fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation. And Joseph shall put his hand upon your eyes". Later he took his entire family and went to Egypt.

Question:

Though Jacob loved Joseph, why didn't he leave immediately to Egypt rather than staying back and inquiring of the Lord?

Answer:

The life experiences of Jacob:

- 1) Jacob tried to receive spiritual blessings by deceiving his brother Esau and later couldn't enjoy of it.
- 2) He obeyed his mom to deceive his dad and receive his blessings and later the same mom forced him to run for his life.
- 3) Because of the blessings he had received from his father through deception, he had to live a fearful life for almost the next 20 years. But for the first time he inquired of the Lord and then left from Paddan Aram, neither Esau nor Laban could harm him. That's the reason, though Joseph himself had invited him to Egypt, he did not want to go without the permission of God. Dear brother/sister, hearken unto the voice of God even before you are taking decisions.

"Obey me and do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God".
Jeremiah 11:4

Prayer

Father, help us to be children who hear Your voice and to take decisions according to Your will. Amen