

Big View Small Window

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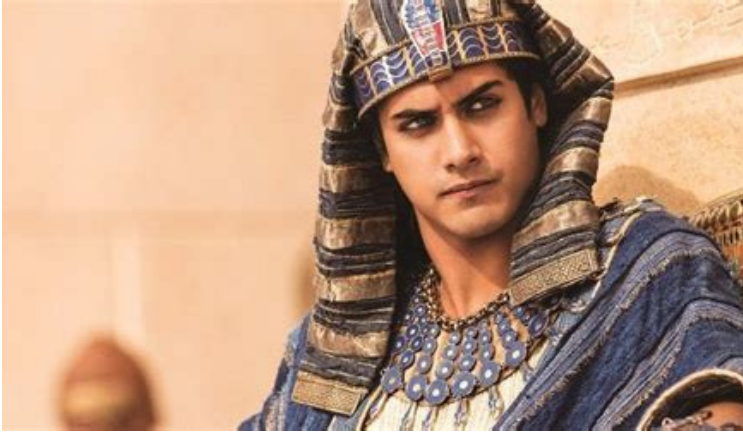
A Man of Integrity

This is my absolute favorite Bible story! If you've never read about Joseph in Genesis 37 and 39-50, let me fill you in!

Joseph was the eleventh and most loved son of Israel. This is the son to whom he gave the coat of many colors and taught the ways of the Lord. Consequently, Israel's excessive show of favoritism sparked violent jealousy and a deadly case of sibling rivalry.

Joseph wasn't entirely without fault as he strutted about the farm, doing less work, taking bigger portions at the dinner table, and soaking up his father's affections. The Lord, too, separated Joseph by anointing him with a destiny to save a nation. Of course, being chosen by God means heavenly favor with earthly consequences.

Joseph's dream of rulership was the last straw. After divulging details of everyone in the family becoming his servants, the brothers plotted Joseph's death and sold him into slavery to an enemy nation. He was later sold again to a man named Potiphar in Egypt.



Joseph had everything: looks, brains, financial success, and the number two position over Potiphar's house. Joseph was also an eligible bachelor - meaning he was sexually pure.

In biblical times, it was common for men to remain virgins until marriage (this is a legitimate trend that needs to make a serious comeback!).

Joseph's biggest test came when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him into adultery. Joseph was only human and it's very likely this was a physically beautiful woman. Yet, the man of integrity honored God above temptation.

Potiphar's wife was unsuccessful in her attempts, so she accused Joseph of rape to cover her own infidelity, cowardice, and embarrassment. Without a fair trial, the words of powerful people were proof enough to convict a slave and a foreigner of his crimes.

In prison, Joseph was again given a leadership position. He met up with two inmates from Pharaoh's household and interpreted their dreams. One of the men was so impressed by the prophetic gift that he forgot about Joseph for two years! It was only when Pharaoh had a couple of disturbing dreams the former inmate remembered and recommended Joseph.

God gave Joseph the interpretation and, in return, Pharaoh promoted him to a governor position. Joseph saved millions from starving to death during a famine. Eventually, Israel and his sons came to Egypt and bowed down, thus fulfilling Joseph's dream.

There are many things to unpack in this story. One important thing to note is although Joseph was a dreamer, he was not a man who "followed his dreams." Joseph took (or was forced to take) the steps in front of him. He fully trusted God without knowing the outcome. As an arrogant teenage, Joseph had no capacity to understand his dream of ruling in Egypt or the sacrifices he would make to arrive in that moment. Proverbs 10:24 says, "The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?" (NLT)

God allowed and used all the adversity in this man's life to mature and prepare him for leadership. When God gives you a dream or vision of your future, hang on to it! Don't sell out to fear or frustration or become offended with His timing. Call on the Lord to help you resist temptations to settle. Don't let suffering cause you to doubt His love or His plans.

Few men in the Bible were as undeserving of slander and punishment as Joseph, but no one is innocent of sin. Jesus is the only Man who can stand in the presence of the Father without the need for justification. Our faith in Him is how we're made right with God (see Rom. 3:22-24). Joseph's story teaches us to trust God with our lives and wait patiently for His perfect will to come to pass.

Relational Intelligence

The material referenced below was created by lead pastors at [New Life Community Church](#) and should be considered a brief introduction to RI.

Are you a "thinker" or a "risker"?

Thinkers approach life mostly on an intellectual basis - things have to *make sense*. Thinkers make decisions primarily by rational analysis and learn best by thinking things through. **Riskers** approach life mostly by feelings - it has to *feel right*. They make decisions primarily based on intuition and they learn by experience. Thinkers say, "Let me think about it first - then I'll be prepared to experience it." Riskers say, "Let me experience it first - then I want to think about what my experience means."

We are most comfortable and effective when we lead with our naturally *dominant* strengths. However, the demands of our environment may require us to lead with our *supporting* strengths. Let's say one man's dominant strength is **philosophical** reasoning, but his job requires him to "flex" and lead with his supporting strength of being **action-oriented**. On his own time, he naturally prefers to analyze situations before responding. At work, he must *risk* more than *think* to solve problems, so he spends most of his time implementing action plans and engaging in high functioning tasks. Ultimately, he may adjust to the stress and come to believe he is a pattern-7. Yet, his true core strengths are that of a pattern-3. He may not realize he'd enjoy being a college professor more than an asset manager.

Constantly "flexing" can cause us to neglect our natural dominant strengths making it difficult to discover our true core pattern (but we all have one!). One effective way to discover your pattern is to "try on" each of the eight patterns to see how they fit. Consider the behavioral pattern descriptions below. The one that feels the most "natural" or "comfortable" is a good indicator of your core pattern.

8 CORE BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS

-DESCRIPTIVE WORDS ARE NOT AN EXHAUSTED LIST-

- **PATTERN ONE** - Thinking/Practical/Dependent: stable, dependable, conservative, cooperative, factual, kind, good listener, organized, gentle, agreeable, good listener; *May enjoy administration*
- **PATTERN TWO** - Thinking/Practical/Independent: realistic, efficient, determined, objective, reserved, independent, holds feelings within, ambitious, self-sufficient, competitive, analytical; *May enjoy servant leadership*
- **PATTERN THREE** - Thinking/Theoretical/Dependent: considerate, philosophical, quiet, supportive, idealistic, scholarly, sensitive, tactful, refined, peacemaker; *May enjoy teaching*
- **PATTERN FOUR** - Thinking/Theoretical/Independent: inventive, individualistic, original, introspective, works alone, likes to theorize, reflective, introvert; *May enjoy creative or fine arts*
- **PATTERN FIVE** - Risking/Practical/Dependent: outgoing, practical, sympathetic, down-to-earth, sociable, compromiser, expresses feelings, accepting, talkative, service oriented; *May enjoy event coordinating*
- **PATTERN SIX** - Risking/Theoretical/Dependent: warm, friendly, emotionally expressive, dramatic, romantic, generous, imaginative; *May enjoy marketing or public relations*
- **PATTERN SEVEN** - Risking/Practical/Independent: self-assertive, enterprising, action-oriented, leader, resourceful, takes calculated risks, energetic, confrontational; *May enjoy self-employment or entrepreneurship*
- **PATTERN EIGHT** - Risking/Theoretical/Independent: persuasive, explosive personality, optimistic, bored with details, charming, socially attractive, self-confident; *May enjoy sales or broadcasting*

My thoughts on Relational Intelligence

I went through an RI class a few years ago. Based on the results, I am equal parts of pattern-2 and pattern-4 (my pastor at the time was convinced I was a 4). Both patterns describe how I approach relationships, projects, and form habits. My dominant strengths are ambition, creativity, self-sufficiency, and introspection. In weakness, I've had to overcome struggles with perfectionism and excessive critical thinking.

When I'm in an environment that requires me to "flex", I am a pattern-7. This pattern takes calculated risks, tends to be practical, action-oriented and resourceful. This isn't too far of a stretch from my core pattern as 4s and 7s are both theoretical and independent. The main difference is that it's natural for me to lead by *thinking* (4) rather than *risking* (7). I'm naturally individualistic (4) but I can flex into a resourceful team leader (7). I'm also naturally relaxed (4) but I can flex to be energetic (7). Several people have incorrectly supposed me to be a full-time pattern-7 because those characteristics are their only perception of me. But a true pattern-7 will discern I'm flexing because situations requires it!

Final thoughts: I believe **self-awareness** is the gateway to relational intelligence. Dictionary.com defines self-awareness as *the realization of oneself as an individual entity or personality*. In adulthood this means recognizing what is/isn't working and determining what's required of *you* to change. We all have a past and we've all experienced hardships. Blaming our present actions on authority figures or unfortunate circumstances is not a personality trait. When someone says, "That's just the way it is", they really mean, "I don't want to take responsibility for this right now."

We can correct wrong behaviors and set appropriate boundaries by practicing self-awareness, but we must recognize four things about ourselves and others. We all:

- have **natural** and **learned** tendencies
- have **strengths** and **weaknesses**
- lead by **thinking** or **risking**
- have a choice to be **real** or **pretentious** in every situation

God can help us get rid of unhealthy perceptions and ideas about ourselves and others. The more in tune we are vertically, the more in tune we are horizontally. Life and relationships are better when you're self-aware and relationally intelligent!



America's Political 3rd Party



RINO-Rats

On the 2019 campaign trail, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders declared his administration had a "new vision for America". The vision included taxing the wealthy to fund socialist policies that would resolve the homeless crisis, create Medicare-for-all programs (forcing healthcare to become a human right), and provide free education and childcare for every citizen.

This bombastic speech-making left the other Democrats floundering with their promises. Some offered freebies but tried to be less extreme about their approach. Williams, no doubt on strong uppers with her "make love not war" campaign...Yang wanted to print thousand dollar bills...O'Rourke wanted to somehow make America safer without guns...Bloomberg bought a million dollar soap box...what a freak show!

Say what you will about Sanders, at least, he did not mince words. His intentions to destroy the American Republic were very clear and he offered no apologies. Though technically an Independent, Sanders had no problem with moderators referring to him as a socialist during the debates. At other times, he clarified he was a *Democratic-socialist* (which has no real definition other than identifying as a socialist living in a democratic society).

Fast-forward to spring 2021. The Democrats have morphed into a full-blown tyrannical regime, leaving moderates and classical liberals by the wayside. Basically, if you're not an all out leftist, progressive, offended by everybody and everything, then you're no longer a Democrat. Likewise, on the right, many Republicans have shown their true colors by voting to impeach Trump a second time, feigning disbelief in election "irregularities", and siding with Pelosi to form a "9/11 style commission" to investigate the January 6th Capital breach.

These establishment Dems and Repubs are who I'm referring to as the RINO-Rat Party. They are the coalition of alienation and estrangement. They are globalist elites and wannabes who have completely abandoned their voter base. They smile in the face of the American public while blaming all our problems on Trump, Russia, and racism. Their spokespeople incite violence and their policies are meant to secure world domination. They're all eaten up with lust for power and money and the media paint them as heroes in the mainstream. They have only further divided the nation.

The only way to stop this new party of radicals and cowards is for all of us - liberals, independents, conservatives, no party - to unite at the polls. This country still belongs to We The People. Forget about picking your favorite candidates and cast a vote for *policies* that enable every American to live peaceably, **free from government control.**

Home Fries

I am not a chef (or a photographer) but this gives you an idea of where to start.
Try these before you make another drive-thru fry run!



Choose a medium sized
Russet potato



Use good spices and olive oil.
(Onion/garlic powders not
pictured, but highly
recommended!)



Cut potato in half, then cut
one half into 1/4 inch to make
fries



Add seasoning to coat each
fry (be generous with non-
salt seasonings)

- Broil potatoes for 10-12 minutes in a toaster oven or 8-10 minutes in a normal sized broiler
- For crispier potatoes, try coating with corn starch
- If you're worried about calories, then pass on the fries and eat a salad without dressing! Haha!



I had them with a
homemade
buffalo chicken wrap!

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for supporting my writing. This past month was pretty amazing!

At the end of April, I submitted a query to Charisma News. On May 14, my first article was published! The article was shared by a prominent minister with a great audience (I know because I'm one of his followers). The last I looked, the article received 7.7k likes, 2k re-shares, and 500+ comments. Not bad coming out of the gate!

On May 19th, I received a call from the editor inviting me to become a contributing author at Charismanews.com! I now have a "blog" featuring news and opinion pieces each week.

This is an answer to prayer for sure - and in just three weeks! I have enjoyed writing for many years and I've finally found some ways to share it with others. There's more good news to come. Stay tuned!

Available on Big View Small Window:

- Look for the newsletter on the **first** day of each month
- For words of affirmation, check out the **Encouragement** page
- A brief biography is included on the **About** page, for more content subscribe to my blog *Thinking Out Loud*
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Let me know your thoughts.
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