

## The Wonderful Wilderness

"Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness..." - **Matthew 4:1 TPT**

"Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness in order to reveal His strength against the accuser by going through the ordeal of testing." - **Matthew 4:1 TPT**

"Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness in order to..." - **Matthew 4:1 TPT**

### 1. Every wilderness has an "in order to".

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. - **Exodus 13:17-18 NIV**

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to... - **Deuteronomy 8:2 NIV**

### God has led me into the wilderness in order to...

"Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness in order to reveal His strength against the accuser..." - **Matthew 4:1 TPT**

### 2. Every wilderness has a big reveal.

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. - **Deuteronomy 8:2 NIV**

### God is obsessed with your heart.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed." - **Luke 2:34-35a NIV**

**The wilderness reveals your heart.**

**Perhaps sending you into the wilderness was God's choosing, but the length of stay is yours.**

"Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness in order to reveal His strength against the accuser by going through the ordeal of testing." - **Matthew 4:1 TPT**

**3. Every wilderness has an ordeal.**

**Ordeal - A painful or horrific experience.**

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." - **Numbers 13:31-33 NIV**

**4. Every wilderness reveals new strength.**

"Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the lonely wilderness in order to reveal His strength against the accuser by going through the ordeal of testing." - **Matthew 4:1 TPT**

He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. - **Isaiah 40:29 NKJV**

But he answered me, "My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness." - **2 Corinthians 12:9 TPT**

**A) The wilderness prepared us for the battles to come.**

**B) The wilderness teaches us who our source is. (how to trust God).**

**C) The wilderness teaches us that God will make a way when there is no way.**

**We don't realize that God is all we need until He is all we have.**

Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" - **Exodus 5:1 NKJV**

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. - **James 1:2-4 MSG**

### **1. The word of God.**

And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God. - **Ephesians 6:17b TPT**

### **2. Faith.**

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. - **Romans 10:17 NKJV**

**The devil is conquered wherever his design to devour our faith is defeated.**

But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. - **Numbers 14:32-33 NIV**

...above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. - **Ephesians 6:16 NASB**

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. - **1 John 5:4 NASB**

Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.] - **1 Peter 5:8-9 AMP**