

Through The Wilderness:

A Journey Together

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A constant theme in the bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is that of wilderness. It is a place, an idea, and a feeling. And what the bible shows us about the wilderness tells us a lot about how we should view our personal spiritual (and physical) journey through life.

Even the Hebrew word for wilderness (*midbar*) implies momentum, driving forward, and a journey with a purpose. There is a sense of forward momentum, of being spurred forward...not simply plopping down and staying, but rather moving FROM something TO something else.

The main focus of this class is to investigate our journey through this wilderness of life.

Recognize that we are all united in this time and in this place. We will study what the Bible has to say to us regarding this spiritual wilderness journey.

Be assured that you are not alone on this journey!

I will also share some specific counseling philosophies and techniques that are

consistent with the Bible that can help ourselves and assist us in helping others as we journey together through the wilderness.



Through The Wilderness:

A Journey Together

Visit website:

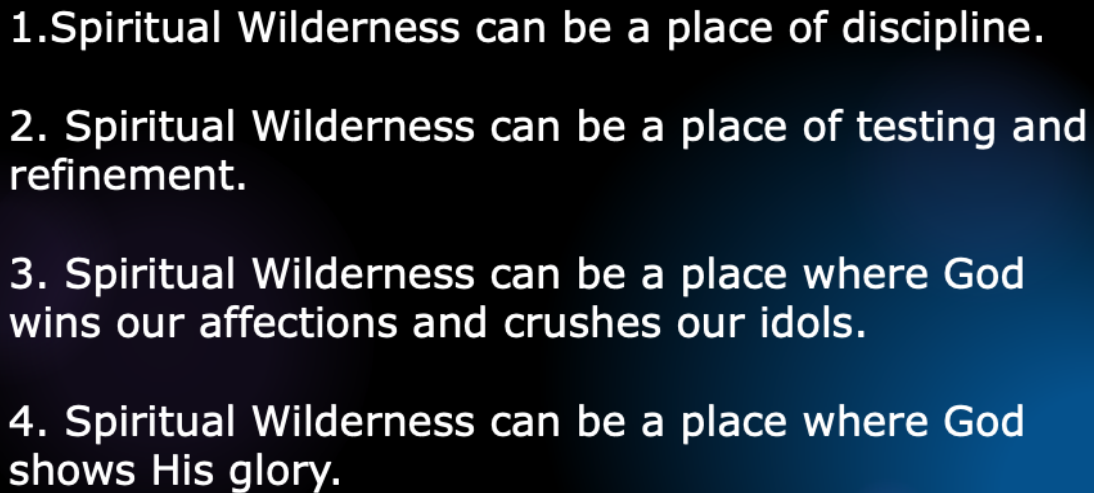
throughthewildernessblog.weebly.com



Why Go Through The Wilderness?

The wilderness is a place of testing and trial for God's people, intended to develop humility and perseverance and teach us to fully rely on Him to provide.

***"...So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know...that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord"
(Deut. 8:3)***

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1. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place of discipline.
 2. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place of testing and refinement.
 3. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place where God wins our affections and crushes our idols.
 4. Spiritual Wilderness can be a place where God shows His glory.

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The Spiritual Wilderness Is Not a Waste – 4 Reasons
By [Dustin Crowe](#) -September 22, 2021


Exodus 13:22

22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

God never leaves us and is always there to lead us through the wilderness

When Israel left Egypt and entered the wilderness, they had to completely rely on God.

God led them through the wilderness. Only God knows the path to get to the Promised Land.



Part 1 - Identifying the Wilderness Journey

Section 2 – Jesus' Wilderness Experience

4 Parts to Course:

1. Identifying the Wilderness Journey
2. Perspective for the Wilderness Journey
3. Helping Others Through the Wilderness Journey
4. Finishing the Wilderness Journey

5. In section 2 we will look at the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

Matthew 3

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **14** And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be* so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. **17** And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Immediately preceding Jesus' Wilderness experience was His baptism...

The Israelites were baptized in the Red Sea immediately before their wilderness experience... 1 Corinthians 10

We will see some similarities between the exodus and Jesus' wilderness experience...

Matthew 4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

Mark 1:12–13

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals and angels attended him.

Immediately preceding Jesus' Wilderness experience was His baptism...

Matthew records that Jesus was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness to be tempted. We know that God cannot be tempted, neither tempts he any man (Jam. 1:13), so the Spirit of God wasn't doing the tempting, he was doing the leading. This is an important distinction, and a vital reminder of this truth: Jesus was not alone in his temptation. The Holy Spirit was with him.

Temptation came at a high point in Jesus' life.

We will see Satan tempt us in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. (1 John 2:16)

Matthew 4

³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Reference: <https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/lessons-from-temptations-of-jesus.html>

Jewish readers would have recognized the pattern of testing that precedes a period of public ministry. Throughout the temptations, Jesus responds to the devil with quotes from the Book of Deuteronomy. It's significant to note that Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 in the first temptation, but the previous verse reads like this:

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).

Jesus responds by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3:

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that **man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord**

With this temptation, Jesus proves this is more than religious talk. He places God's will above even His physical needs.

Read Deuteronomy 8.

John 4


³¹ In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

³² But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

³³ Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

Jesus puts His ministry above His physical needs.



With every temptation Jesus responds with
scripture!!

Matthew 4

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'
and,

'In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/the-fourfold-gospel/by-sections/jesus-tempted-in-the-wilderness.html>

Psalms 91:11

11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

Notice that Satan uses scripture...

[Deuteronomy 6:16](#) You must not provoke him and try his patience as you did when you complained against him at Massah.

The first temptation was to under-confidence; the second to over-trust and presumption--two very dangerous conditions of the soul. Men begin by disparagingly doubting that Jesus can save them from their sins, and end by recklessly presuming that he will save them in their sins. Comparing this with Eve's temptation, we find that she was vainly curious to see if she might be like God ([Genesis 3:5](#)), but Christ resisted such curiously.

Matthew 4

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Reference: <https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/lessons-from-temptations-of-jesus.html>

H.A.L.T

...Too Hungry
...Too Angry
...Too Lonely
...Too Tired

Dr. Charles Stanley has a great message about HALT to avoid being susceptible to temptations in life.



Lessons to be learned from the temptation of Jesus

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>

“And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness”
(Luke 4:1-3).

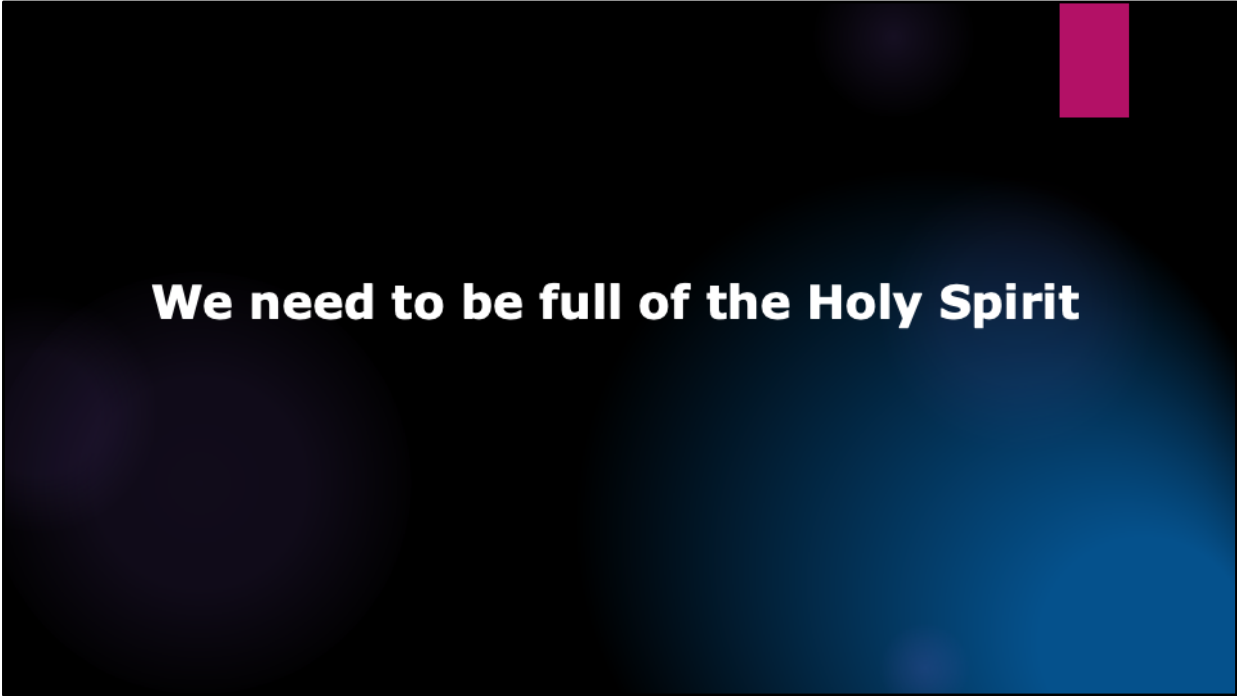


The tempter hit the weakest points.

When we give in to temptation once, even just a little bit, it's like Satan sticking his foot in the door, giving him more power to tempt you even more.

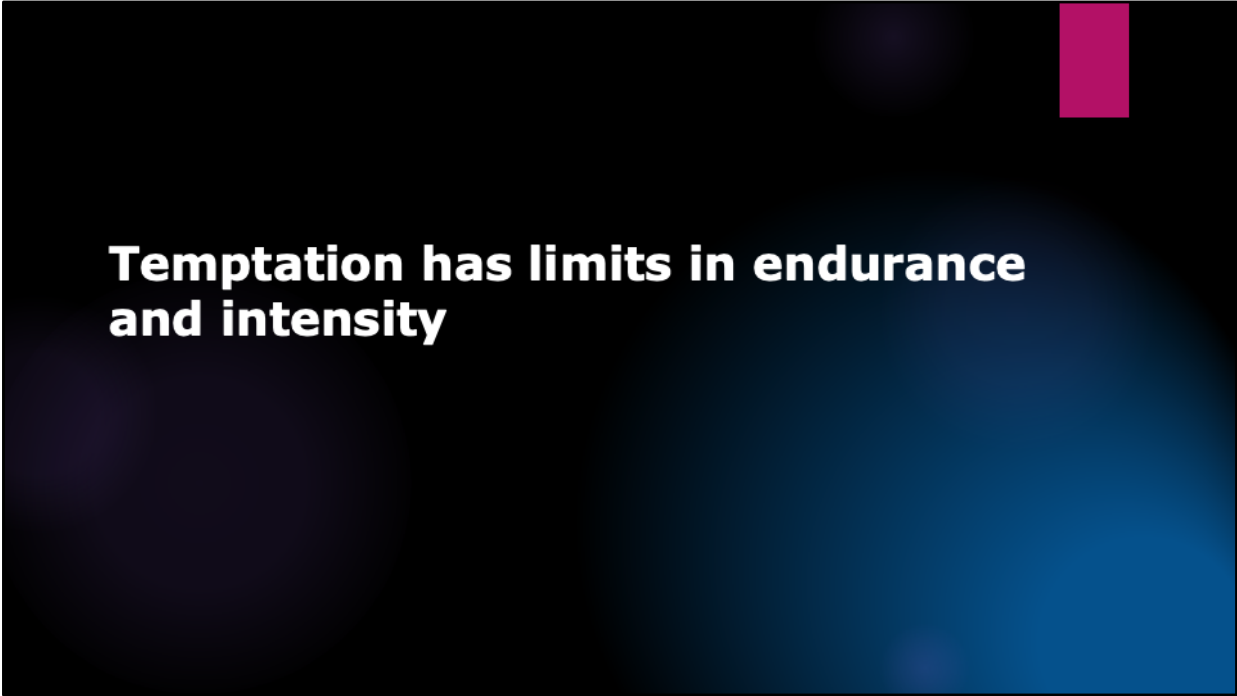
That's the lie of temptation. It tells you that when you give in, it's going to feel so good and you'll feel so satisfied...

But that satisfaction never comes and all you're left with is that feeling that *you want more.*



We need to be full of the Holy Spirit

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>



Temptation has limits in endurance and intensity

1 Corinthians 13:10 reminds us that temptation will only be as strong as our strength to endure it. God believes we can handle the temptation and allows it so we can be stronger for the next battle. God will never put on us more than we can bear.



Satan uses pride to lead us to sin

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>



**We need to keep our spiritual
sword sharp**

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>



**We need to obtain our spiritual
food daily**

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>



Satan uses the good to bring bad results

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>

Satan used scripture to tempt Christ and took Him to the temple...

Go can use bad to bring good results... **ROMANS 8:28**



Satan perverts the truth

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ/>

The truth is the greatest weapon on earth!
People do incredible things to gain the truth and to hide the truth.



**We must not exchange our spiritual
reward for physical reward**

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ>

Think back to the OT story of Jacob and Esau...



We must only worship God and Jesus Christ

<https://becomingchristians.com/2017/04/13/12-important-lessons-we-learn-from-the-temptation-of-jesus-christ>

Do we struggle worshipping other things of this world?



The Devil Goes Away If We Resist Him

James 4:7 says it plainly, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (NIV).