



**THE
WILDERNESS
DILEMMA**

GREG SIMNOR

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†HEROCK®

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The Wilderness Dilemma

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CHAPTER 1

THE WILDERNESS DILEMMA

What happens when God takes us out of, or takes away from us, all we have perceived as Him, and puts us into a brand new reality called the “Wilderness”, for the purpose of testing us, to see how much we truly “Know Him” and are being built by Him?

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 “All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your forefathers. You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

This truly is the “wilderness dilemma” which every follower must be prepared to journey through and not around, if we are to truly enter into the fullness of an eternal life He has for us now. The Father wants way more for us than just a justified life in Him. His will and desire is that we will become the full reflection and expression of His Son now. For this to occur we must all be prepared to be taken into the wilderness for our open heart surgery, where He removes all the leaven and gives us His best life.

Jesus said it this way, “I don’t want your burnt offerings and sacrifices, but your heart.”

The wilderness is a place where we are faced with the hardcore facts, that nothing of man or man-made lives and exists there. It’s the place we bring absolutely nothing with us apart from a broken spirit and a contrite heart. It’s the place where our strength, abilities, talents and attributes are futile and have no value. It’s a place where man’s sensual pleasures don’t exist.

This is the reality one must accept, receive and believe if one is to lay hold of the abundance of life in the wilderness. Anything less than this and there is an extremely high percentage rate that we will either die in the wilderness or leave it, returning to all we know, our forms of godliness, the very thing God is leading us out of.

What does one do when one is led into the wilderness and confronted with the eternal truth, that one can not do anything eternal? Does one continue to do all they know how to do, getting the same results? Does one continue to control the narrative and refuse to take their hands off the steering wheel of one's life, setting up camp on the opposite side of the river to Him, without ever knowing this is what we are doing?

Are we prepared to yield all of us unto Him, acknowledging there is nothing of man or man-made in the wilderness, truly losing our life for His sake to find life, or will we attempt to find our own life and so, in turn, lose the life we were created for? This is the wilderness dilemma for every follower. How far am I prepared to go?

Matthew 16:25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

The reason the Spirit brings us into the wilderness is to bring us into a life which is truly based on the eternal food that only Jesus gives, but are we prepared to leave everything, and I mean everything, to discover this life we have been created for?

This is what the wilderness dilemma and this resource is all about. Declaring to us the promise of the life that is concealed in the wilderness, for all those who are willing to trust Him and others and walk this out together. A bold and courageous spirit is required for all those who will undertake this journey of the unknown, and allow God to reveal the wilderness which is flowing with milk and honey, while being concealed in a barren and dry land.

This passage in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, must become our living testimony if we are to thrive in the wilderness and make it the place we abide and reside in.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Questions

Why does one require a bold and courageous spirit of humility when it comes to:

1. Entering into the Wilderness Dilemma?
2. Receiving all of what He intends for us?
3. What is the purpose for God leading us into the wilderness?
4. Why does the wilderness test us so much for what we either do or don't have?
5. Why is weakness the key to being strong in Him?
6. What can we receive if we fully embrace the wilderness dilemma?

CHAPTER 2

THE PLACE OF ABUNDANCE

When we hear the word wilderness, what's the first thing that comes to mind? What visual imagery comes to mind when we hear the word wilderness? What emotions does the word wilderness evoke within us, and why is this the case?

I believe one of the greatest mistakes we make as God's people, is to confuse earthly wilderness with the eternal wilderness. Earthly wilderness is associated as a place of struggle, turmoil, death, hardship, tribulation, dryness, barrenness, desolate, parched, lifelessness, emptiness, and lacking anything of abundance. Eternal wilderness is the exact opposite. It is associated with faith, richness, freshness, abundance, colour, vibrancy, effervescence, fulfilment, life and a place which always has more than enough.

The problem is that the earthly wilderness and the eternal wilderness stand shoulder to shoulder. They are two very distinctly opposite dimensions, but they both exist on earth. It's no different to the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God. Jesus brought His kingdom to earth with Him, but it requires faith to see it.

Q. Which one do we know and associate with and why?

I am going to suggest to us that the way we hear, see and understand the "wilderness dimension" will determine everything about the way we live our lives. One perspective will keep us in a state of fear, worry, anxiety, depression, rejecting and denying the way of life, while the other will have us in faith, freedom, flow, abundance and fully receiving all that He has for us in this place.

Why is it that these two perspectives are so counter opposite to one another and they cause so much contention in and between God's people?

I want to suggest to us the major reason is down to sight. Do we see as He sees and do we see as He says. This determines everything. Are we in fact also like the Israelites who couldn't see the Eternal Life that was directly in front of them when they were in the wilderness of Sin, the earthly place. I have incredibly good news for you if you believe the wilderness is a place of nothingness and have made it your mission in life to avoid the wilderness at any cost.

There is an “ABUNDANCE of LIFE” to receive, come into and live from, in the wilderness.

Exodus 17:1-7 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us, or not?”

Two-part group exercise

1. Take some time to marinate on these verses of scripture and write down what you see (key observations) in relation to this wilderness encounter.
2. With each key observation ask why is this key observation so important in the context of the wilderness dimension?

Q. Why is it important we look to God and others to help us access the life in the eternal wilderness, if we can't yet see it?

CHAPTER 3

THE PLACE OF ABUNDANCE PT 2

Following on from the first part of the wilderness being a place of abundance, I want us to look at Isaiah 43:18-21.

Isaiah 43:18-21 “Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. “Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. “The beasts of the field will glorify Me, the jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. “The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.

Isaiah teaches the Israelites not to call to mind the former things of the past, or to ponder the things of the past. Why is this the case? Because God knows the past can prevent the future from being realised. People who are always looking back, and remembering the good old days, are never looking forward and reaching for what lies ahead.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

What God desires to do in a group of people gets railroaded, due to where people's eyes are fixed. Are our eyes fixed on the past and what has been or on Him and what He is desiring to do in and through His people now. His will, will be done, it's just who it will be done in and through which is the question. The one's looking back or the one's looking towards Him and the future which is now.

Luke said to receive the NEW WINE one must stop drinking the old wine which is good enough. The things of the past have got us this far, but they are not enough to take us beyond our current reality. The old wineskin which contains the old wine, is out of date for the new work God is doing today and the new wine. We need a brand new wineskin to receive the new wine.

This new work which produces this new wine is just this – NEW and it happens in the WILDERNESS. Because it's happening in the wilderness, we don't have a reference point for it yet, hence copious measures of trust is essential and

required. We don't have a revelation of it yet so we must wait and petition for it through prayer.

This is a brand new dimension in Christ that is concealed from us, but for us and it is discovered in the wilderness, the unseen but seen dimension.

“Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Even when the NEW is all unfolding around us and directly in front of us, we can be found completely unaware of this reality, and many unfortunately are.

A mistake that I have seen consistently made in the body of Christ, is to judge and discern this new wine through the reference for the things of the past, the former things. When we try to fit the NEW wine which we are hearing into our old wineskin, we will find ourselves rejecting, denying, deflecting, ignoring or walking away from what we are hearing, because the spirit of pride within us, can not understand what we are hearing, so we say to ourselves, this isn't of God.

The new wine comes from a place we don't expect. The new wine also comes forth from a person or a people we don't expect.

“I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Q. Why do the beasts, the jackals and the ostriches of the field glorify Him?

A. Because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert are given to us by God in the wilderness. We do not dig them up or come up with our strategies to figure out if there is water in the desert.

Only the Father can produce this reality and dimension. Out of nothing comes something. Out of what is not, comes what is. God gives this water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to supply His chosen people with living water to drink. From receiving this living water that comes forth from the wilderness, the desert, as His chosen people we will declare His praise. This incredible living water is only found in the One and the place called the “Wilderness”.

Questions

1. What stands out the most for you in this resource and why?
2. Why is the Father the ONLY One capable of giving us this living water?
3. If the beasts, the jackals and the ostriches glorify God, what does the demonstration of our lives glorify?
4. God promises to do a NEW THING. Why can't an old wineskin receive the new wine?
5. Can you testify of any new work He is doing in you through placing you in the wilderness and forming a new wineskin in you?

CHAPTER 4

THE PLACE OF ABUNDANCE PT 3

It may surprise us all to hear, but there is an eternal purpose for why God leads us into the wilderness. God is so in love with us and so intent on bringing His beloved creation into the life He has predestined for her, that He took Israel, and He takes the church, out of their version of God. Just as He placed them into the wilderness, He places us into the same place, to reveal our true state of heart.

Deuteronomy 8 is a profound chapter of life and describes what the Father has been doing for the last 10 years in our family called The Rock. Let's have a look at what God has been doing in the hearts of the people who call the Rock their church family.

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 "All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your forefathers. You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

God has been speaking to us profoundly over the years about whether we are able to keep the two Commandments which all the Law and the prophets hang on. God commands us to do something we can't do in our own strength. Just like the Israelites couldn't keep the 10 Commandments because they weren't empowered by the Spirit, neither can we unless we are empowered by the Spirit.

The problem that the Israelites faced and that we also face, is that in not being able to keep these commandments, we are not able to enter in to the life that sits behind the commandments, accessing and possessing the life the Father has promised us. An eternal life in His Son.

Luke 10:25-29 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord

your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Because of this reality, God has to lead us into a place we have not been before, to perform a very deep work in our hearts. It is in this place that He tests us to see where we are drawing our life from. This place isn't a place we would naturally chose to go from our own free will, so He leads us there so we can receive ALL He has for us. Things in God are never as they appear.

Here are the reasons why God leads us into the wilderness.

To humble us. To create in us a spirit of humility. Blessed are those who are poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom.

To test us. God needs us to see what is in our own hearts. God taking us into the wilderness is a time of the heart being uncovered, for what's truly there. He tests us to see if we can keep His Commandments - 1 John 2:3-6

He lets us be hungry. God takes us to the wilderness to starve us of the current food we are eating. Food we trust in but food which perishes, fleshly food which doesn't produce an eternal life. He takes us there, to humble us and make us aware of our true need for true food.

He gives food. It's in the wilderness that God starts to give us the food we need to live as Christ and receive all of the life that is in Christ. This is the food we need, to be able to keep the two Great Commandments. It's a food which many are unaccustomed to. Only the Father can give this food.

He makes us understand. Through the Father giving us this food, we come to the realisation that we do not and can not live on bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

This is the process we must all be in and follow as this is the ONLY WAY, if we want the incredible life which verses 4-18 of Deuteronomy (READ) speaks of. The Israelites never entered into the life in the promised land because they did not heed what God taught them, and we too will be the same if we don't either.

We must live the Way we are commanded to live, if we are to access and possess all that is in Christ for us today.

Questions

1. As a person who says I am walking this walk out, can you give living testimony of this wilderness journey and what has taken place in and for you from this journey?
2. Why did God have to humble the Israelites and why does He have to humble us?
3. Would you say you have been humbled and had the spirit of pride crucified in you by Him?
4. Why does God test us and place us in situations or circumstances which test us?
5. What new food have you come into eating which you hadn't eaten before and how has this brought more life into you?

CHAPTER 5

GOD INHABITS THE WILDERNESS

Acts 7:30-31 "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush. When Moses saw it, he marvelled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord:

Where did the angel appear to Moses? In the wilderness!!!!

The spiritual, eternal life is never *where* we expect it to be and it is never in whom we expect it to be in. The voice of the Lord came forth from a BURNING BUSH in the WILDERNESS.

Where Moses encountered the Lord was on the driest side of the mountain. It wasn't in the lush green fields, where there was much vegetation and life. No, it was in the driest most barren part of Mount Horeb. Horeb means desert or mountain of the dried up ground.

What does this tell us about the wilderness and where we can expect to find God and God speaking?

In Matthew 4 we see Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Now to the natural eye one would say what on earth is the Spirit doing leading Jesus to a place where the devil is waiting for Him to tempt Him out of who He is and the Father's will for Him? What are you thinking Spirit?

This is all a master set up. Not a set up for Jesus but a set up for the devil. Remember where God lives? In the wilderness, the very place the Spirit was leading Jesus. So let's look at who is now in the wilderness. We have the Father, Son and Spirit, and the devil. Not an even match really now is it, and to think Jesus went in to the wilderness full of the Holy Spirit as well.

What a divine set up this is. The Triune God in the wilderness with the devil, to show the devil, just how much he is defeated and how victorious the Father, Son and Spirit are. The devil goes in there with his 'A' game – thinking deception, lies and temptation will be the down fall of Christ and yet comes out with his tail between his legs.

He then perceives Jesus may be weak after the fasting of natural food for 40 days, but he is completely unaware that Jesus is full of eternal food. He was full when He went in and He was full when He came out – why?

Because Jesus, like the Father and the Holy Spirit, is the representation of the wilderness. They are the wilderness and they inhabit the very thing they are. They are the food source of the wilderness. The enemy's ploy was to deceive Jesus in areas of identity, doing His own will, testing of the Father, and in whom He would worship and serve.

All these attempts and efforts were futile and ultimately powerless, because the One who He came up against was full of Eternal Life that is discovered in the wilderness. This is to be our exact reality as well. There is no battle between us and Satan, when we all come into the Eternal Life that is discovered in the Triune God – the wilderness.

We just live out the victorious life in Christ, even though he dances around us, doing all he can to deceive, tempt, lie and distract us from entering the wilderness, inhabiting the wilderness and receiving all our food from the wilderness. All his efforts fall to the ground when the Eternal life is ABIDING in us.

Questions

1. How does it make you feel knowing God lives in and inhabits the wilderness?
2. Why is entering the wilderness now an exciting prospect?
3. What has been your experience of receiving in the wilderness?
4. Where are you receiving your manna from – the wilderness or the temple?

CHAPTER 6

JESUS IS A TYPE OF WILDERNESS

As we have been looking at in the previous resources, God inhabits the wilderness and the wilderness is a place of extreme abundance of life and vitality. It's not like many have thought and possibly still think, that it is a place of barrenness, and it is with this in mind that we look at Jesus Christ Himself as a 'type' of wilderness.

Jesus is the eternal life and He brought His eternal kingdom with Him, but the temporal world and all those of the temporal world did not know Him. This world includes all of mankind, including us.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

The eternal life is just that – eternal. The eternal life and the eternal kingdom is an unseen life and kingdom to the temporal, earthly realm. Jesus Himself was a type of wilderness. He stood directly in front of many people, while still being unseen. He was seen by some and completely unseen to others.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

John 14:8-9 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Jesus Christ Himself is the physical manifestation of a type of wilderness dimension. Unseen and unknown to many, while being seen and fully known by others. Those who truly know the unseen One, the Wilderness, know the eternal life that is contained within this eternal vessel and know how to access the abundant eternal life He gives.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

The physical natural temporal kingdom has no way of hearing, seeing, understanding, accessing and possessing this eternal life through its wisdom, known as the wisdom of man.

Human learning and the acquiring of informational knowledge of the scriptures through the intellect is human wisdom. It is this wisdom that says the wilderness is a place of dryness, lifelessness, empty, barren and desolate. Why, because it is not capable of seeing the incredible abundant life that stands directly in front of it.

Jesus was constantly faced with this dilemma by everyone in His life. Why did Jesus have to ask His disciples who He was after they had already declared they had found the Messiah?

Why did the disciples pretty much never hear what Jesus was saying when He spoke?

Why did the disciples for the most part, in the gospels, act completely the opposite way to how Jesus taught them?

Why can we, today, be exactly the same as Jesus' disciples were back then?

Because we too, just like them, apply man's wisdom, when it comes to hearing, seeing, understanding and attempting to access all of the eternal abundant resource that is in the One who is a type of wilderness, but this doesn't have to be the case.

When we completely surrender the operating systems of man and allow our will to fall upon the Rock and be smashed into pieces, and start asking the Holy Spirit to engrave His Word on our hearts through revelation, renewing our minds via the Spirit and having our emotions defined by His Truth, we find ourselves starting to access and possess all of the hidden manna that is concealed and contained in the One who is a type of Wilderness.

Questions

1. What are our thoughts about Jesus being a type of wilderness?
2. Water came out of the rock in the wilderness. What is this a spiritual type of?
3. Why does the unseen seen eternal life only exist in Him?
4. What role does faith play in knowing this eternal life and realm?
5. How much of this faith do you possess?

CHAPTER 7

A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST IS A TYPE OF WILDERNESS

In the previous food source, I shared with us that Jesus Himself is a type of wilderness. He was and is the Eternal Life and this eternal life is not of or from earth, but of an entirely different sphere and dimension, called Heaven.

The people of God, called the church, the body of Christ, are to be just as He was on the earth.

1 John 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Jesus Himself is a type of wilderness and Jesus said He would build His church upon the revelation of Himself. All this building work takes place on the inside of us as His disciples. Firstly, in our hearts and secondly in our minds, while at the very same time this can occur simultaneously as one work of the Spirit.

The predestined eternal purpose or calling for every disciple, is to be conformed to the image of the Son.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Disciples of Jesus, who make up Jesus' body, those whom God foreknew, are being conformed into the image of the Son, through the spiritual process of sanctification and in doing so, have become also a type of wilderness, because they have become Christ like.

Luke 6:40 A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

This is the entire process of the formation of spiritual oneness. No longer separated from God but one with God. This is what true fellowship with the Father, Son and Spirit is. No longer Christ and man, but man's life is now hidden in Christ. The two have become one and in so doing, disciples of Jesus, have become a type of wilderness.

Colossians 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Can we hear and see how both these passages are intertwined in the Spirit? Colossians says our lives are hidden with Christ, who is in God. Jesus says in John, that the Father is in Him and He is in the Father, and His prayer is that all disciples would be in them.

If our lives are hidden with Christ and Christ is in the Father, then where are we?

Let me put it this way...

If the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father, and we are in Christ, then where are we?

Disciples who are in this posture of spiritual oneness, fellowship, not relationship, but fellowship, are disciples who are in and live from the eternal life, the wilderness, because they have become one with the type of wilderness – Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What are our thoughts in relation to each follower being a type of wilderness?
2. What kind of life or fruit could we expect to see coming out of a church who are this type of wilderness?
3. As He was we are to be. Is this just a nice theoretical statement or is it an absolute reality that we His people are to be in, coming into and living out? Share your thoughts.

CHAPTER 8

JOHN THE BAPTIST IS A TYPE OF WILDERNESS

As we looked at in previous resources where Jesus and Disciples of Jesus are a type of wilderness, so is John the Baptist.

John was of the Levitical priestly line and was considered the greatest of all of the Old Testament prophets and yet he was not found in the temple, like all the other priests. He could be found in the wilderness, proclaiming the Word of the Lord.

Matthew 3:1-3 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'"

What is a priest of the Levitical line doing out in the wilderness when he should be in the temple preparing the sacrifices unto the Lord? He is preparing sacrifices unto the Lord alright, but not like those of the temple. His preparation is in the preaching of the Word about the One who is coming to cleanse the world of all its sin.

Everything about John was foreign to the normality of the priests who prepared the temple sacrifices and offerings. His choice of clothing, a garment made of camel's hair, and his choice of diet, honey and wild locusts, reflects to us the wilderness.

Matthew 3:4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

John was also filled with the Holy Spirit while being in his mother's womb before his birth and he would be a forerunner before Christ's return, running in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Luke 1:15-17 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to

turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

This I suggest to us is more evidence of John being a type of wilderness as opposed to being a type of temple or palace priest. Jesus, Disciples of Jesus and John the Baptist, are all types of the same kind – the Wilderness.

Questions

1. Have you ever considered John the Baptist to be a type of wilderness and why?
2. John’s bloodline was of the Levitical priesthood, but how does this differ from being a priest of the spirit?
3. What are some of the key differences between priests of the temple and priests of the wilderness?
4. What kind of priest would you consider yourself to be, knowing we are called and chosen to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession?

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

CHAPTER 9

JESUS WAS BORN *IN THE* WILDERNESS

I want to start by asking us all a question, which I hope will have us considering a reality and dimension in Christ we may not be awake to. My hope is that all of this eternal food which is being given, will steer us towards having our minds renewed to being in Him.

Q. Where was Jesus born?

Luke 2:12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Kings are not born in Inns and they are not born in stables. Kings are not laid in mangers. Kings are not placed in a trough used to feed animals. What are you talking about? Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords didn't come out of Nazareth did He, because as Nathanael said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Nazareth was a very small village in this time, with not a lot happening within it. Interestingly enough Nazareth today is a large city in the Northern District of Israel, which is known as the Arab capital of Israel. How fascinating is all of this? That the King of all kings wasn't born in the luxury of a palace, or the luxury of an empire, like kings of this world. He wasn't born in the most modern day, state of the art birthing unit, which kings today are born in, wrapped in the finest of linens.

I mean, can you imagine any of the English monarchy being born in an inn, a stable or being laid in a trough that is used to feed their horses? I don't think so, and yet this is where our Lord and Saviour, the One and only beloved Son of almighty God was found.

What is all this telling us about God? God is never found where we think He is? He is never where we expect Him to be and look. Is God a burning bush? No, but this is where His presence was found by Moses and on the most barren and driest part of Mt. Horeb.

Jesus was born in the dirtiest, smelliest, darkest of environments. He is found in a broken down and decrepit place, used to house animals. The Holy Spirit

comes into broken down, dirty vessels called humanity and this is where He makes His home. He makes His home in the broken and contrite heart, not the heart that thinks it has it all together.

What am I saying here?

Not only was Jesus born in a place you wouldn't expect to find Him, He is also found in the people we don't expect Him to be found in. He is not found in the people who have it all together, but in the people who live and inhabit the wilderness with Him.

Questions

1. What is the underlying statement or theme in this resource?
2. Why does God do things so opposite to what we expect?
3. What things have you believed about God which haven't, in fact, been true?
4. What have you learnt from these wrong mind-sets?

CHAPTER 10

JOHN THE BAPTIST LIVED AND WAS FOUND IN THE WILDERNESS

Luke 1:80 And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Where did John live?

This is a very different picture to where we may have expected to find John the Baptist. What on earth is the greatest prophet of the old doing living in the wilderness? The wilderness is John's place of habitation.

I find the next passage in Matthew 11:7-15 extremely fascinating in relation to John being in the wilderness and declaring the eternal gospel in the wilderness.

Matthew 11:7-15 As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings' palaces! But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.' Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

I love the question Jesus asks the crowds. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?

Jesus then lists a number of things. A reed shaken by the wind, or was it a man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in king's palaces, but what did you go out to see? Jesus is making a massive point

about where His prophets, those who are His sent ones are found. What's even more incredible about all this, is John is not just any prophet, but the greatest prophet of the old, and he is found where?

Prophets of God do not live in king's palaces, wearing king's clothes and eating the food of kings. They are not found living and having their habitation in the man-made religious system and institution. They may from time to time visit and bring with them the Word of God, in the hope that all those whose hearts and minds are institutional, will be set free.

They are in the desert, the wilderness, wearing clothing appropriate for the wilderness and eating food that's appropriate for the wilderness. This is where John was found and lived his life from. The food He ate and the clothing he wore, was supplied to him from the wilderness. There was nothing man made about where he lived, the clothes he wore or the food he ate.

Question for us all – what do you think all of this means for us?

One would have thought God would have set the greatest prophet of the Old Testament up in the flashiest temple, and this is where he would have lived from and given his powerful message of preparing the way for the coming Messiah. But no, this was the furthest from the truth. All the people who lived in the man-made religious institutions, would have to go out into the wilderness if they wanted to hear the Word of the Lord.

Questions

1. What is God communicating to us from this truth?
2. Why is it so easy to become an institutional follower?
3. What is the difference between living and being found in the wilderness as opposed to living and being found in the temple?
4. If the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist, where are we found living and why?
5. What is preventing you from becoming a wilderness resident?

CHAPTER 11

JOHN THE BAPTIST RECEIVED THE WORD IN THE WILDERNESS

Luke 3:1-2 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

The Word of God is often found in a place and a person, where one would least expect to find it. I love the fact that God always does the opposite to what man does. Where man thinks he will find the Word, and in whom, is pretty much always contrary to where God's Word is discovered and in whom it is discovered.

This is exactly the case here. We see the list of the who's who of the day. To put this into our context, this would be like Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, Vladimir Putin, Benjamin Netanyahu, Xu Jinping, The Pope and his cardinal, all being in one place, and then hearing the Word of the Lord came to a guy name John. They would all look to one another and say, "Who on earth is John?"

The flesh in us never recognises the Spirit and because of this, we are always looking for His Word in the wrong place and in the wrong people. God chooses the place, which to the natural or the flesh looks barren, dry, empty and void of life and He chooses the people, who have no credentials, positions or titles. A people who don't have it all together, very little following, nobody's to most but somebody to someone.

2 Corinthians 12:11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.

Your ability to receive the life that is in this food source called "The Wilderness", will be based on your humility of spirit, and your ability to hear and see in the Spirit. If you attempt to know and understand what is being shared through the flesh, you will find yourself rejecting this spiritual food. The words I am speaking and the imagery I am sharing, are spiritual words and spiritual thoughts.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Are you truly open to where and who God chooses to place and declare His Word? Would you and are you humble enough to receive it from the place you would never have considered and are you humble enough to receive it from the one, you never would have chosen. I hope we all are, as this tends to be the place and the vessels, that God chooses to confuse the so called wise, and to bring forth His Truth.

Questions

1. Why does God place His Word in the wilderness and in people who are a type of wilderness?
2. What does this tell us about God and His ways of operating?
3. Why is discerning through the natural eyes so damaging to our spiritual walk?
4. How are we to discern all things in Him and why is this the case?

CHAPTER 12

FOLLOWERS OF THE WILDERNESS – FOLLOWERS OF THE TEMPLE

Over the next 2–3 chapters, we are going to look at and discuss the difference between being a follower of the wilderness and a follower of the temple.

As previously stated, I am speaking in spiritual thoughts and spiritual words, so I pray you will be able to hear what is being spoken through the Spirit. The risk of not hearing correctly will either see you disregarding what the Spirit is wanting to reveal in and to us, or misunderstand what is being said, and believe something entirely different to what is being said.

This is a very real reality today in the church, His body, and it always has been. To hear what the Spirit is saying through the Spirit, has and always will be the greatest challenge for God's people. Our oneness of Spirit depends on it, and just because we say we are His followers, doesn't mean we are all growing in fellowship with Him and one another, living as one.

Just like the 12 leaders who went in to spy out the promised land were all of the same people group, but they were not all of the same "kind". Two of those leaders, Caleb and Joshua were of a different "kind". They were wholeheartedly abandoned to God, His Word, His purpose and plan, because they had lost their lives and were no longer living for themselves, while the others were of a different "kind".

The problem today is that those who are temple followers have no idea that's who they are. They genuinely think, and are wholeheartedly convinced, they are growing in Christ, when in fact their lives don't reflect this truth. These temple followers have forms of godliness but do not live a life of Godliness. Temple followers trade form for substance, and their form of godliness is based around what they do for God, as opposed to who they are in God.

Many of these temple followers have been raised WITH a very functional, transactional Christianity, from a spirit of legalism, but unfortunately they have not be raised IN Christ. God loves all of His people, but not all of His people love Him the way He commands and live for the Father's will.

These followers know how to answer all the questions correctly, and say all the right things, but they are not in the life of their answer. When it comes to living the right way or righteously walking in the manner which Jesus walked, they are unable.

Firstly, when I speak about being a follower of the wilderness and being a follower of the temple, I am not referring to a physical place or building, but a heart posture and a mind-set in a person. Our hearts and minds can either be of the Spirit, the wilderness, the unseen, the promised land, the eternal realm OR the flesh, the temple, the seen, the world, the temporal realm.

The challenge is just because you may have the Spirit living in you, doesn't automatically mean you know or live from the life of the Spirit, where the Spirit is the one controlling and directing your life now. You can still very much just continue to live your life from the flesh, quenching and grieving the Spirit.

Although Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt physically, and Egypt is a physical typology of the world, Egypt was still fully established within them, hence their disobedience to God and Moses in the physical wilderness was incredible. This is what kept them all, bar two people, from entering the physical promised land.

Freedom is not on the external but on the inside. In our hearts and minds. Plenty of people live in freedom on the outside, but in their hearts and minds they are in bondage.

The question I want to pose to us all is, which one are we of? Which one do we inhabit and relate to? Which one are we eating from? Which one are we hearing and seeing from? Which one do we spend our time, energy, priorities and resources in and on? Which one are we living from and for? Although these are confronting questions we must ask them of ourselves, otherwise we run the risk of thinking we are in a reality we in fact aren't. I can't think of anything worse than to think you are in something you really aren't and live from this form of blindness or deception.

We have looked at Jesus, His disciples and John the Baptist all being a "type" of wilderness. A type of the unseen but seen realm, where an abundance of life exists, called the promised land, the eternal life in Christ. The natural or flesh has no reference for this spiritual dimension, and it is from this posture I want to discuss the difference between what it means to be a follower of the wilderness and a follower of the temple.

Buckle up, because this promises to be a bumpy ride, but I promise us all, that if we will truly enter into our spiritual act of worship, which is the laying down

of our lives, completely surrendering every part of us, the Spirit of God will come and engrave the Word of God on all of our hearts, so we all can live the Way of the Kingdom wholeheartedly.

Questions

1. What has been mentioned in this resource that might be challenging you right now and why do you think this the case?
2. What is the most distinguishing factor between a wilderness follower and a temple follower?
3. How many of us can relate to a very functional, transactional form of Christianity?
4. What is the spirit behind this transactional form of Christianity?
5. What is the role of Grace in our lives and why is it essential we live from it?
6. Why is it essential that our hearts get crucified, our minds are being renewed and our emotions are being defined by His Word, and we are not just changing our external situation and circumstance, thinking this will bring life?

CHAPTER 13

WILDERNESS FOLLOWERS ABIDE IN CHRIST

Wilderness followers abide in Christ, while temple followers only incorporate Jesus into their lives.

There is a real difference between the follower who abides in Christ and the follower who has only incorporated Jesus into their life. One knows and has Christ as their literal source, while the other only knows Him as their resource. One can not know or have the Father as their source, until they have fully surrendered and wholeheartedly abandoned themselves to God.

What makes this so dynamic with incredible tension, is one can not surrender or abandon themselves to a God they don't really know. The beginning of this knowledge is receiving the revelation of how right He has made us in His Son.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

To only know Christ as our resource, is to still have 'you' or 'self' as the source of your life, and this is a very limiting and crippling reality. Although one doesn't really know God or know how right they have been made in God, they can still use the gift He has given to see things happen in their lives and the lives of others. This position is very deceptive and one we must all be made aware of.

This becomes a problem because the pre-requisite for this abiding life in Christ, with God as your source, requires you to have lost your life and lost it for His sake.

John 12:23-26 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Matthew 10:39 He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

So instead of operating from fellowship/oneness of Spirit with God, which is the outcome of abiding in the True Vine, you operate from gifting/function/outcomes, or what you are going to do for God.

Instead of fellowship defining the function by faith and fruitfulness, the function is defined by the flesh.

We go from flesh to function directly and bypass the way of the abiding life in Christ. We also run the high risk of doing works which will be burnt up at our judgement seat, as they are not works of the Spirit, but of the flesh.

If we have invited Christ into our lives for what He can do for us, then we have only incorporated Him into our lives and this position can not deny self. Only those who have lost their lives through divine grace or power, having this power of the Spirit working within them, can deny one's self, from the spirit of love.

This is the follower of the wilderness' posture and position in Christ, because God has become the source of this person's life.

This is the position which lives, moves and exists in Him.

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

When one abides in Christ, as Acts 17:28 describes, a follower of Christ is able to fully love God and mankind the way God commands us to, because one has received and is receiving the all in-compassing and overwhelming life of the Spirit. This position also has coming forth from it, the predestined righteous works or acts of the Spirit.

Questions

1. Why is the abiding life in Christ so powerful?
2. Why is the incorporated position so dangerous to a follower of Christ?
3. Where would you say you are at within your relationship with Him?
4. What life does this position produce in us?
5. Why is it grace and grace alone which performs this work in us?

CHAPTER 14

ONENESS IS ONLY DISCOVERED WHEN WE ARE IN HIM

In the last chapter, we looked at incorporating Jesus into our lives, or having Christ as our life. We shared about the difference between these two realities and that followers of the temple have only incorporated Jesus into their lives, as opposed to followers of the wilderness, where Jesus has become their very life.

John 1:4 In Him was life and the life was the Light of men.

Acts 17:28 For in Him we live and move and exist...

These are two distinctively different positions and because they are separate, there is not spiritual oneness or fellowship occurring between these followers, which means these followers live for different things.

1 John 1:6-7 "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

We can see from verse 3 of 1 John 1 which says, ***"what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ,"*** that fellowship or oneness of spirit is not an automatic reality.

It must be entered into through the spiritual hearing and seeing of the Word of God which comes directly from the Holy Spirit Himself or through mankind, as per John from above.

This doesn't mean God doesn't love both groups of followers, but the difference between the two groups causes them to be living for different things. Instead of being one in spirit, love, mind and purpose, as Paul taught, there is a different reality outplaying itself, even though they can look very similar to the natural eye.

Just because followers attend the same building week in week out for services, pray together, sing together and do things together, doesn't mean these followers are in oneness with one another, being perfected in unity.

Look at these words of Paul when it comes to being spiritually one and being perfected in oneness – fellowship.

Philippians 2:2 “make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

Jesus made a profound statement in John 17:23 where He said this:

“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

To be perfected in unity is the goal. To become one with the Father and Son, knowing this creates unity with one another, and the outcome of this is a world knowing that Jesus was sent for them. This is purely supernatural, eternal and will only be realised when God's people truly relinquish their lives unto Him, losing their lives for His sake, allowing God to truly be Lord in their lives.

The counterfeit version of this dimension of unity is in the drawing of followers together to achieve a functional common goal. This is commonly found in temple worshippers. This goal can even be spiritual, i.e. having a corporate prayer gathering and praying for the nation etc, but this isn't unity nor will it form unity of spirit. Only the Word of God does that.

As per the title, oneness is only discovered in Him, hence the prayer of Jesus again in John 17:11.

John 17:11 “I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.”

John 17:26 “and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

The problem is that temple followers are predominantly unaware that this posture of oneness even exists, and they assume and presume they are already in it, because of their own understanding, their feelings and by what they do. They are easily offended when this Word is spoken, as it shines the light on their true heart state.

As mentioned, the deception is in the fact that they can look like they are the same but in the heart, the place of life and understanding, they are completely opposite. The temple follower is still ultimately living for self, and the operating systems of self, while looking like they are living for God, and genuinely believing they are. The wilderness follower on the other hand has died with Christ and their life is hidden in God, they are only interested in the Father's will, period.

One is godliness which becomes profitable for this life and the life to come, while the other holds to a form of godliness, which profits us nothing.

Wilderness followers can't go back to being a temple follower and living from the temple ways. They have to pursue the One who is a type of wilderness, because they have become one with Him. This causes them to make decisions and prioritise life in a way that becomes offensive to the temple follower.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 "Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."

Wilderness followers are not trying to offend anyone but be faithful to the One they are one with. In fact, they desire all of the temple followers to surrender and lose the temple heart and mind set and come and be one with them and the Christ.

Questions

1. What has stood out the most for you in this resource?
2. Why is oneness only discovered in Him?
3. Why is conformity through the flesh so dangerous in the body of Christ?
4. Which posture (wilderness or temple follower) do you relate to the most and why?

CHAPTER 15

WILDERNESS FOLLOWERS KNOW HOW TO ACCESS THE ETERNAL FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS

Wilderness followers know how to access the eternal food source that is in the wilderness or the unseen realm. The unseen realm is a very real and tangible realm, called the Spiritual Kingdom of God on the earth. Jesus said, "Repent, because My kingdom is at hand."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The unseen seen realm is a handshake away from us all, and as we reach out to Christ and take His hand, He not only leads us into this unseen seen dimension, He gives us the eternal food that exists in this dimension. This is the food which builds His life in us – eternal life.

John 6:27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

All of our outer external bodies are decaying, as 2 Corinthians 4 says, but because wilderness followers know how to access this eternal food source in the unseen, their inner man is being renewed day by day and this inner man enables and empowers our outer man, to demonstrate a Christ like life now.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

It's not year by year or week by week but day by day. This is because this eternal food is available 24/7. Does this sound familiar, "Give us this day our daily bread". Who is the Bread of life?

Temple followers have no reference for this eternal food source called the Bread of life, or in fact what He gives, because it is concealed and hidden, and they haven't learnt the ways of possessing this incredibly rich food source in Christ's Spiritual Kingdom domain.

They only have their version of this food, which is acquired through human learning, and it doesn't produce His life in us.

We know it's God's glory to conceal a matter and it is the glory of kings to search out a matter – Proverbs 25:2.

1 Corinthians 2 also teaches us that God has prepared all He has for those who love Him, and that all these things have been given freely to us, for those in Christ, to know, understand and live from.

The wilderness followers know how to access all this concealed life through the Spirit being their Teacher, and live in accordance to it.

This is what it means to live from the eternal prophetic predestined Spoken/Written dimension, which Jesus was living His life in accordance to, while on earth.

Questions

1. How well do we know this unseen seen dimension?
2. Why is it imperative we know how to access it and the food in it?
3. How does one access and possess this food?
4. What difference does it make to our lives?

CHAPTER 16

WILDERNESS FOLLOWERS SHARE GOD'S WORD WITH TEMPLE FOLLOWERS

The heart of every wilderness follower, is that their brothers and sisters who are Temple followers, would hear the Word of God they declare. Although wilderness and temple followers are of the same people group, they are not of the same kind - the Word. It is the heartbeat and hope of every wilderness follower, that the temple followers will receive the Word they bring to them.

This was Jesus' heart when He entered into the physical temple and He began to read out of the book of Isaiah which declared Him to be the Messiah. He was making it very clear who He in fact was and for a moment in time the religious temple leaders were taken aback by His Words of spirit and life.

Luke 4:22 And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

Just for a moment things are going well and then just as quickly as they are going well, they start to take a dive. Jesus continues to declare His Father's spiritual Word, saying no prophet is welcome in his hometown and the temple followers who were taken aback by His words, are now on the brink of killing Him.

Luke 4:28-29 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.

We see His own family thinking he has lost His senses and they come to take Him away.

Mark 3:21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

Temple followers really struggle to hear and understand wilderness followers, because they try to understand them through the flesh or the mind, instead of

hearing and understanding through the Spirit or the heart. It's the clashing of the two kingdoms. What's the carpenter doing in our temple teaching from the prophets? This is our role, not the carpenters. Carpenters should be working in factories or in their workshop, not teaching in the temple.

Spiritual humility is the key to hearing the spiritual word of God, and it is clear to see, that this humility was not present in the hearts of the religious leaders.

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

The church of Jesus Christ are birthed and brought forth by the spiritual Word of God, to be a kind of first fruits.

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Failure to hear, receive, accept and believe this Word, will have us being the same people we have always been.

Wilderness followers are seen as nobodies by the temple followers and they don't honour them as a person or honour the gifting and the words they declare. They disregard and dishonour them and so never receive the reward that they bring with them, hence they remain in their form of godliness, always learning, but never coming into the knowledge of truth.

Heaven groans at this reality, because this keeps Temple followers and Wilderness followers separated, as opposed to being of the same kind, even though they may walk together physically and be in physical relationships.

Questions

1. Why are we to be passionate about sharing the Word of God with fellow believers?
2. Why do those who attempt to understand the Word of God in the mind first, struggle to hear and understand those who are speaking from the Spirit?
3. Why were the religious leaders so angry with Christ, when He entered and starting testifying of His Father's Word?
4. Why is humility of Spirit the key to hearing the Word of God which is to be implanted in our souls?

My prayer is that if you have heard the word of God through the words written in this book, you have been apprehended, arrested and then redirected, towards the LIFE which is in Christ for you, in the Wilderness. He is waiting there for you.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

Greg



If you have only known the wilderness as a place of darkness, death and despair join us as we unpack the true reality of the Wilderness in Him.

This resource will declare to us the promise of the life that is concealed in the wilderness, for all those who are willing to trust Him and others and walk this out together.

A bold and courageous spirit is required for all those who will undertake this journey of the unknown, and allow God to reveal the wilderness which is flowing with milk and honey, while being concealed in a barren and dry land.

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