

Nine Tests Every Christian Must Face

Lesson One

The Wilderness Test

***Deut. 8:2 (NLT)** Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey his commands.*

***Deut. 8:3 (NLT)** Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people need more than bread for their life; real life comes by feeding on every word of the Lord.*

***Deut. 8:16 (NLT)** He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good.*

***Deut. 8:17 (NLT)** He did it so you would never think that it was your own strength and energy that made you wealthy.*

The word “**wilderness**” is defined as a desert place; a place uncultivated or lived in; a state of disorder Wildernesses are places of:

- Difficulties
- Pressures
- Insufficient resources
- Oppositions
- One of the questions most asked in Church is “Why”.

In one of our beloved hymns, there are these lines:
We wonder why the test, when we try to do our best

We ask why...why is this happening to me.

- It is asked when bad things happen to good people.
- It is asked when great effort produces only poor results.
- It is asked when the expected success is delayed.
- It is asked when the wicked prosper while the righteous struggle.

“and we wonder WHY the test, when we try to do our best...”

- People tend to deal with difficulties better if they understand that what they endure serves a purpose.
- Knowing that the trials of their faith are not pointless makes the enduring bearable.

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

The purpose of every test is:

- To reveal what we understand
- To reveal what we don't understand
- To reveal to us the applicability of the lesson

Why the Wilderness Test:

- To humble you
- To prove your Character
- To teach you that you need more than bread
- To discipline us for maturity or self-control
- To reveal to us that it was not our own strength that made us prosper

The test occurs

- So that we would not forget God.
- So that we would learn to trust God.
- So that our faith in God would grow stronger
- So that we would have a platform from which we could minister to those who are around us.

How God tests us:

- He allows us to LACK

He supplies our need in a manner in which we are not FAMILIAR.

He allows us to be DEPENDENT

He allows us to be STRESSED

He allows us to suffer PAIN

God is more interested in our CHARACTER than He is our COMFORT.

Man cannot see his weaknesses until circumstances reveal it.

Impatience is revealed when something hinders our progress.

Pride is revealed when we are forced to do something menial.

Stubbornness is revealed when we are forced to do something that we do not desire.

- Our lack of faith is revealed when we are required to do more than what we are able.
- Idolatry is revealed when we are required to sacrifice those things that matter to us.
- Immaturity is revealed when we can't have our way
- Self-Will is revealed when we are required to do something against personal ambitions.
- Self-Centeredness is revealed when we are forced to serve others

Matthew 12:35(KJVA) A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Testing is

Inevitable

Continual

Necessary

Productive

Influential

Crafted by God

Dangers of the Testing

People become DISILLUSIONED
People become DISTRAUGHT
People become DISTRACTED
People become ANGRY
People become BITTER
People become HARDENED

Only two men were promoted to becoming a king without the struggle of **THE WILDERNESS**.

- King Saul—consumed by jealousy
- King Solomon—consumed by his own passions

While the **TESTING** is universal, how we respond is left up to our personal inclinations.

Blessings of the Wilderness Test

We see the SUPERNATURAL work of God.
We receive ASSURANCE of the care of God
We receive assurance of the POWER of God.
We receive assurance of the FAITHFULNESS of God.
We are transformed by a RENEWING of our minds.

- We will become mature Christians.
- We will develop the ability to endure.
- We will lack in nothing.

***Jam 1:2** Consider [it] all joy, my brothers [and sisters], whenever you* encounter various trials,*

***Jam 1:3** knowing that the testing of your* faith produces patient endurance.*

***Jam 1:4** But be letting that patient endurance have a perfect work [or, full effect], so that you* shall be perfect [or, mature] and complete-lacking in nothing.*

- Our effectiveness and successes depend upon our responses to the various trials or testings.