

“¹Then Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days... Then Jesus returned to Galilee, **filled with the Holy Spirit’s power**. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region.” – LUKE 4:1, 14

WHEN WE COME THROUGH THE WILDERNESS...

“Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands... He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. For all these forty years your clothes didn’t wear out, and your feet didn’t blister or swell. Think about it: Just as a parent disciplines a child, the Lord your God disciplines you for your own good.” – DEUTERONOMY 8:2-5

1. _____

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” – MATTHEW 11:28

“So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into God’s rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.”

– HEBREWS 4:9-11

2. Give _____

“There is a benefit to being tested, and God knows what we do not. On the other side of a test passed is a pure, glowing, world bending spiritual resilience.” – DAN WILT

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

3. Don’t go _____

“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.” – 1 PETER 1:6-7

“I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” – PHILIPPIANS 1:6

4. Don’t _____ it

“So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

– DEUTERONOMY 31:6

“The wilderness is not just a place of disappointment. It’s also the furnace of transformation.” – JOHN ORTBERG

“The wilderness is a place of meeting with the Lord. Getting from where you are to where God wants you to be requires a journey of listening, waiting, trusting, and obeying.” – JUSTIN JEPPESEN

The wilderness is never a _____ place, but if we have eyes to see, there are also beautiful lessons there.

- God uses the wilderness to _____ us
- God uses the wilderness to _____ us
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- God uses the wilderness to _____ us

When we go through seasons of spiritual wilderness, we need to lean into them, not run from them.