

## The Lord Goes Before You

“Entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not **here**. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; **there** you will see Him, as He said to you.”

Mark 16:5-7

Notice the angel is saying Jesus is not **here** at the tomb. He is over **there** at Galilee. The angel was saying in effect ‘I know this looks bad. I know your hurting. I know your disappointed. But don’t stay *here*, because over *there* something better is waiting for you.’

In other words *here* is where the wilderness is. *Here* is where the disappointment is. If you remain *here* you will be discouraged. Don’t remain *here* you must go over *there* where Jesus is waiting for you.

“Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.”

Hosea 6:1-2

Do you find difficulties moving out of the wilderness? Where do you believe Jesus is waiting for you? What does he have in-store for you there?



## Going Forward

The Lord doesn’t want you to stay *here* in the wilderness where you may be struggling with pain, failures and setbacks. He has already gone ahead to prepare your next chapter and He is waiting for you *there*.

*There* is where new beginnings are. *There* is where you will find your healing. *There* is where the blessing is. *There* is where God is waiting for you.

If the two Mary’s would of stayed in the pain, in the disappointment, they would have not seen the *there*. They would have not seen the Lord. What God has in-store for you is not in your past. It’s in your future.

Are you living in the *here* while God is waiting for you *there*? Are you stuck in a disappointment? Do you have bitterness over a bad break? Are you angry about what didn’t work out?

Its time to leave *here* and go *there*. Being in the wilderness is simply a season. It’s not the rest of your life. God wants to help you but it’s left up to you to let him. It’s your choice to remain *here* or to go *there*. If you find yourself in the wilderness you don’t have to wait for it to change before you come to God. Just come as you are and he will change your life from the inside, out. He is inviting you to leave the wilderness. He is inviting you to come and see how much he love’s you.

In your spiritual journal write about how God has shown His love to you and the times when He has helped you by speaking to your inner person.



The Least of These Ministries  
“A Works of Mercy Ministry”

# IN THE WILDERNESS

### In Short:

- God is with us in the wilderness
- The Holy Spirit is here to help
- God goes before us

## Listening In The Wilderness

Sometimes we may feel like we are having a hard time hearing the LORD as we go through difficult seasons in our life. I want to remind you that you are not alone when feeling this way. For even Elijah had these experiences. When Elijah was going through a difficult season after a spiritual high he ran to a cave. (1Kings 19:1–18)

Instead of focusing on enduring these times by self medicating, as Elijah had done when running to the cave, we should be doing more to embrace them by drawing closer to God. Because it’s during these times that our faith will be tested and strengthened for our own good. Embracing these kinds of seasons gives us the opportunity to learn through them what God needs us to learn. Once in the cave Elijah listened for the voice of the LORD.

“And he said, ‘Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.’ and behold, the LORD passed by, a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire And after the fire a still small voice.”

1Kings 19:11–12

Standing before the LORD at the entrance of the cave Elijah encountered the LORD’s divine presence, accompanied with various phenomena, such as wind, storms, earthquakes, and fire.

After the fire Elijah heard the LORD’s voice as a “still small voice.” As we listen for the voice of the LORD he may not speak to us in an audible voice as many of us would like. But he may speak to our inner person with a “still small voice.”

“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

1 Corinthians 14:33

When the LORD speaks within us, we can since him through his peace, clarity, and what the Holy Spirit reminds us through his word.

As we seek the LORD in our own life we will no doubt encounter (metaphorically) the same types of phenomena Elijah had. During these phenomena we should avoid being more concerned for our own temporal comfort and satisfaction. Because doing so can come at the expense of our redemptive end.

The refining process is the process where God removes the sinner from the kingdom of darkness and places them in the kingdom of light. Trials are part of that process and they signal the preparation for the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. During these times the person should not be passive but be a fellow worker with God. Because the refining process is the act by which God brings them from death to life.

Have you heard the LORD speak to your inner person when you were in the wilderness?

If so, what was he saying?



Visit us at [www.theleastoftheseministries.com](http://www.theleastoftheseministries.com)

References:

“Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible”, by James Strong, LL.D., S.T.D. *The New Strong’s* (2010) by Thomas Nelson Publishers)

## Don't Give Up

*"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up"*

*Galatians 6:9*

The enemy's greatest attack is not on your talents it's on your identity. See yourself as Jesus sees you. You are more than the choices that you've made. You are more than the sum of your past mistakes. You are more than the problems that you create. You are loved and being remade.

There has been a great price that has been paid for you. If that price didn't need to be paid for all of us he would of paid it just for you. Those of the world may tell you that you're useless, that you're beyond repair, that you're unworthy, that you're a lost cause. But the truth is your none of those things. God wants you to know that you have a future worth living.

*"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight."*

*Colossians 1:19-22*

In Christ you are found to be above reproach and blameless before him. You are not only worthy, you are loved, you have value, and you are made holy in his image.

When you feel that you're failing or you feel like you're worthless or you feel like quitting do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Has there been a time when you felt like giving up? What advice can you give others who may feel that way?



## Whats Been Done For Us

There may come times in our life when we fill that we are wandering aimlessly through a wilderness. If these feelings were to grow to become feelings of losses and failures they may even become overwhelming for us. But it's in the wilderness that we need to draw near and put our trust in God.

Our salvation is not accomplished by our own works of righteousness. But according to God's own mercy. He will never leave you or forsake you. He gave the ultimate sacrifice –Jesus– for you.

*"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

*Titus 3:5-7*

It's in God's mercy that we are saved. When you feel like your not good enough remind yourself that God's love isn't earned. It's given. He doesn't just love us when we think we deserve it. He even loves us when we think we least deserve it. His love doesn't rest on who *we* are or because of what *we've* done. He love rest on us because of who *He* is and what *He* has done.

Can you express how much God loves you? Why are you thankful for His love?



## Obtaining God's Peace

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*

*Philippians 4:6-7*

The LORD's nearness is not a summons to irresponsibility or an invitation to dismiss legitimate concern. This scripture is saying to us that the solution to undue anxiety *in everything* is prayer, "in any matter of life." The way to be free of anxiety is to be prayerful about everything.

Obtaining God's peace is to have tranquility of the mind. Freeing the believer from fear and worry that is divinely bestowed in times of anxiety. Peace *which passes all understanding* means obtaining a peace so wonderful that it exceeds one's ability to understand it.

Like any seed that is to grow well it needs to be place in good soil, yet even in good soil if the seed is not in a good atmosphere it will not reach maturity.

To *maintain* God's peace the believer must occupy their minds with the right things and busy themselves with the right activities.

*"Finally, brothers, think about these things whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."*

*Philippians 4:8-9*

Can you share a time when you was anxious and received God's peace through prayer?



## Walking With The Spirit's Help

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

*Galatians 5:16*

The believer who "walks by the Spirit" will *not gratify* {accomplish, carry out} *the desires of the flesh.* {sinful nature}

Christians are to walk with the Spirit's help. How does one "walk by the Spirit"?

- (1) Christians should anticipate the effects of the Spirit's help in their daily life. (Galatians 5:16)
- (2) Christians should believe that the Spirit is with them, having been sent by God into their heart. (Galatians 4:6)
- (3) In every spiritual confrontation Christians should yield to the Spirit, that is, submit their own desires to those of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5-6)
- (4) Christians should depend on the Spirit for help, enabling them to live a God-pleasing life. (Galatians 5:5)

If you find yourself struggling to walk by the Spirit in the wilderness; I want to encourage you to be patient. The maturing of the fruit of the Spirit takes time. As fruit on a tree takes time to grow and mature, so the Spirit does not cultivate these virtues in the believer's life overnight.

Have you walked by the Spirit using any of these four steps? Is there any you struggle with?

