

The Wilderness of Unbelief

“Untended fires soon die and become just a pile of ashes”
(Gail MacDonald, *High Call, High Privilege*, pp. 17-18,

2Chronicals 15:1-2

1And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:
2And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

It is far better to walk with the LORD than against; to follow His path and not our own. I have known His sheltering wing and have of mine own accord departed from it. On that journey I have found that it comes down to one thing; do we fully and completely trust God? For those of us that have lacked trust in the LORD we have created for ourselves a wilderness of unbelief and it is a desert of our own making. Are we so different from the Children of Israel? Do we believe and trust God...or not?

Numbers 14:11

And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

The Children of Israel believed not God and did not trust in His faithfulness to them; despite seeing His miracles and their deliverance from Egypt. To the Church and to the saved has not God provided ample proof of who He is and by eyewitnesses a testimony of His death and resurrection, and eternal life whereby we can know that our Faith IS NOT in vain? - **1John 1:1-3** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

The Wilderness of Unbelief and a Life without Rest.

Hebrews 3:7-12,15,18-19

7Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,
8Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
9When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.
10Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.
11So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)
12Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

15While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

18And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The wilderness of unbelief and desert of failing trust is a lonely place to be. In this spiritual wilderness and desert there are many torments for the lost and believer alike; as warned of in God's Word: the hardening of the heart, not knowing God's ways, the fostering of an evil heart of unbelief, and exclusion from God's Rest. One can find oneself wandering without a destination and with a spirit that is grieved and wavering. There are many mirages in this place to give false hope and a false sense of security. The temptation to trust the world and the things of man is ever present. But these things are mirage's that fade and ultimately disappear with the wind and shifting sand.

Jeremiah 17:5-6

5Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

6For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited.

A wavering trust in God leads to a forfeit of blessings and unanswered prayers. As a man is driven crazy by thirst in the desert; also a lack of trust can make the Child of God unstable and not fit for service; for God will not respond to those whose heart does not trust in Him in all things. We cannot even recognize good anymore. If we lack wisdom let us ask it of God. In our understanding of God and His ways we have ample evidence that He can be trusted and is to be believed.

James 1:5-8

5If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Is it not a great paradox beloved that our unbelief and lack of trust creates in us a doublemindedness whereby others must be wary in trusting us. The very thing that we fail to do with God (trusting Him) causes others to not believe or trust in us. This is a very dangerous thing for the believer –to ruin their witness. **Romans 14:13** *Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. Luke 17:2* *It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.*

Limiting God through Unbelief

Psalms 78:40-41

40How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert!

41Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Mark 6:5-6

5And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*.

6And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Matthew 13:58

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Yes beloved the wilderness of unbelief is an uncompromising place to be. Just as in the desert where one is burned by the heat of the day and freezes by the coldness of the night there is very little comfort and stability. As one finds themselves in peril of dying in the desert without shelter, food, and water; the basic provisions for survival; so too can one roaming this spiritual wilderness and desert of unbelief find themselves in great peril. Hal Lindsay once said *“Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only for one second without hope.”*

Do not limit God beloved.

Keep Your Fire Tended

How can one lose their faith or be overtaken in a lack of trust in believing the living God? They could become a causality of spiritual warfare and demonic oppression. We are told in **Ephesians 6:12** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Satan will use temptations to create a spirit of unbelief and to foster doubt in the Living God; BUT GOD will allow those temptations of the devil to become the trials of our faith. Because the trials of our faith keeps the fire alive within us because – *“Untended fires soon die and become just a pile of ashes”* Beloved let our fires stay tended because what the devil intends to use to destroy us will work for us a far greater Glory. Let us not limit God through unbelief, but rather BELIEVE and TRUST.

1Peter 1:7-9

7That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,

though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Believe and Trust –Just take God at His Word.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **Jeremiah 29:11-13**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. **Romans 8:28**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

There is a way out of the wilderness of unbelief. It is the path of Trust and Faith. The denying of self-will and an obedience to the will of God. Where our duty meets His mercy.

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R.E.G.