

## How to Thrive in the Wilderness

July 17, 2014

### Hebrews 3:7–14

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice,

8 [1] **DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS** as in the rebellion, **on the day of testing in the wilderness,**

9 where your fathers put me to the test and **saw my works for forty years.**

10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, [2] **‘THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEARTS; [3] THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN MY WAYS.’**

11 **As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’** ”

12 **Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, [4] UNBELIEVING HEART,** leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 **But [5] EXHORT ONE ANOTHER EVERY DAY,** as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 **For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we HOLD OUR ORIGINAL CONFIDENCE FIRM UNTO THE END.**

### HOW TO THRIVE IN THE WILDERNESS (or, how to “hold your confidence firm unto the end”):

#### 1. **Don’t Harden Your Heart** (to resist or grow resentful about the wilderness you’re in)

##### 1 Corinthians 10:9–12

9 **We must not put Christ to the test,** as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

10 **NOR GRUMBLE** (smoldering discontent, murmur with undertones, to make complaining remarks and noises under one’s breath), as some of them did and **were destroyed** (cut-off entirely, completely vanish) **by the Destroyer.**

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who **THINKS THAT HE STANDS TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL.**

#### 2. **Don’t Go Astray In Your Heart** (seeking distraction or relief from the wilderness)

##### 1 Corinthians 10:5–7

5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we **MIGHT NOT DESIRE EVIL as they did.**

7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ***“The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”***

8 We must not **INDULGE** in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

3. **Know God** (*sustainability and fulfillment*)

**John 17:3**

3 And **THIS IS ETERNAL** (*166 aiōnios the unique quality (reality) of God's life working in the believer, manifesting His self-existent life as it is in His sinless abode of heaven*) **LIFE, that they KNOW** (*ginosko - to know through personal experience*) **YOU** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

**Hebrews 4**

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,

10 **for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works** (*KJV "...ceased from his own labors..."*) as God did from his.

**Psalm 34:8**

"Oh, **taste** and **see** that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who **takes refuge in him!**"

4. **Choose To Believe** (*make the choice and the grace will be provided*)

**Philippians 2:13**

"for it is God **who works in you**, both **TO WILL** and **TO WORK** for his good pleasure."

**Philippians 2:13 Holman Christian Standard Bible**

"For it is God who is working in you, **enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose.**"

5. **Exhort One Another Daily** (*we cannot, will not, make the wilderness journey alone*)

**Hebrews 3:13-14**

13 But **EXHORT ONE ANOTHER EVERY DAY**, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed **we hold our original confidence firm to the end.**