

# The Danger of Mishandling a Wilderness Period

I'm currently in a wilderness period. It's a time of testing and sifting with the purpose of manifesting in me whether I have learnt what I've been taught by my King so that it is a lifestyle to me, not just a fake. This is not an easy time for me but I have determined that I will pass the various assessments and come out the other end, successful.

The purpose of a wilderness period is not only to manifest what's in a person's heart but it's the pathway to promotion. Promotion in the Kingdom requires an examination to see if you're ready, which is why you are thrown in 'the deep end' and why it's a testing time. This is what happened to Jesus in his 40 days in the wilderness and it's a normal Kingdom process for every son who's wanting to grow and mature in their sonship. He came out of the wilderness in power and full of the Spirit,<sup>1</sup> and it was then that he began the mission he was sent to do.

I've been through numerous wilderness periods since coming out of the church system in 1987, but it's only now that I understand the method with greater understanding. In the past I failed to see what the wilderness was for and didn't graduate. In fact I went backwards. Let me explain.

During a wilderness time the normal experience for a person is that God seems far away. Unfortunately I was under the teaching that "If God seems far away, guess who moved". In other words, when God's presence is not tangible, I must have back-slidden. This brings guilt and a door for the religious spirit to have access. What caused me to fail to progress during wilderness periods in the past was that I thought I needed to do more 'church stuff' to please God and get his presence back. More Bible reading, more prayer time, more church meetings, etc. was the outcome, but this only took me back into religion which I had come out of and it made me more legalistic. My actions were all a result of the religious spirit working through the access I gave through fear.

I learnt the reason for the presence being removed was to cause me to operate on my own – even though he was still inside me. This allows what's really in my heart and my methodology to manifest. Big questions get answered this way. Have I learnt what the Spirit had been teaching me? Do I hang on to the Lord and rely totally on him or do I operate in my own reasoning?

To achieve promotion at the end of the testing period I need to stay the course and be successful. So this is what I'm doing now. No more fear and open doors to the religious spirit.

## RESOURCES

Graham Cooke "Preparation & Closure" [Audio sample]  
[soundcloud.com/grahamcookebbh/preparation-closure](https://soundcloud.com/grahamcookebbh/preparation-closure)

Graham Cooke "A Way in the Wilderness" [complete MP3 series]  
[www.brilliantbookhouse.com/products/a-way-in-the-wilderness](http://www.brilliantbookhouse.com/products/a-way-in-the-wilderness)

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