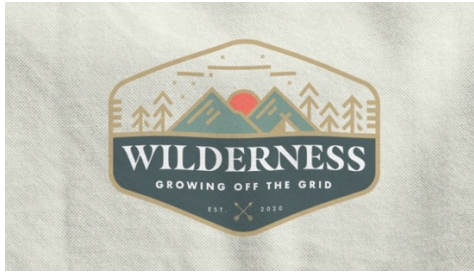


“BETTER, NOT BITTER”
SERIES - Wilderness: Growing Off The Grid
2026-08-02



Pressure doesn't CREATE what is inside of us; it TESTS the substance of our hearts.

Trials will either SOUR our hearts or STRETCH our faith.

Will we choose to become BITTER or will we choose to become BETTER?

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)

Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God's best blessings. Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.

Bitterness is a CHOICE we make in response to pain.

Is there an area in your life right now where hurt has turned into a quiet resentment?

Bitterness is CONTAGIOUS.

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)

Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)

. . . for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.

Hebrews 12:15 (AMPC)

shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it—

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Psalms 119:11 (NIV)

I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

We need to check our own ATTITUDES and HEARTS.

We need to SHUTDOWN sinful attitudes.

Allow pressure to produce PERSEVERANCE

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Genesis 50:19-20 (TLB)

19 But Joseph told them, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish you? 20 As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil, for He brought me to this high position I have today so that I could save the lives of many people.

Bitterness doesn't hurt the offender; it POISONS the soul of the one refusing to let go.

Release the right to RETALIATE.

Forgive the DEBT, release the PERSON, and TRUST that God is a righteous judge.

Emerge with a deeper CONNECTION

Job 42:5 (CEV)

"I heard about You from others; now I have seen You with my own eyes."