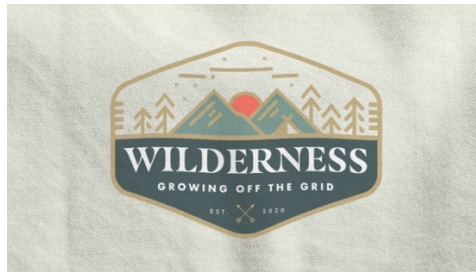


**“REFRAMING Your Wilderness Experience”
SERIES - Wilderness: Growing Off The Grid
2026-07-19**



Romans 5:3-4 (TLB)

“3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. 4 And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.”

In life we are often THRUST into wilderness experiences.

Different REASONS for the Wilderness:

***Broken Creation, Broken People, Broken Choices**

Romans 8:22-23 (NIV)

22 We know that the **whole creation** has been **groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but **we ourselves**, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly** as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

***Give into Temptation**

James 1:14-15 (NIV)

14 but each person is **tempted** when they are dragged away **by their own evil desire and enticed**. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it **gives birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, **gives birth to death**.

***Our own sin or the sin of others**

***Testing & Refining**

Luke 4:1-2,14 – Jesus was led into the wilderness by the **Holy Spirit**, and came out of the wilderness in the **power** of the Spirit.

***Discipline**

Hebrews 12:5a-6 (NIV)

5a “My son, do not make light of the **Lord’s discipline**, and do not lose heart when **He rebukes you**, 6 because **the Lord disciplines the one He loves**, and He chastens everyone He accepts as His son.”

Though the WHY we are going through the Wilderness is important, the HOW we deal with the Wilderness is MORE important.

The authors of Scripture REFRAMED how we go about our Wilderness experiences.

Romans 5:3 (NIV)

“Not only so, but **we also glory in our sufferings**, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;”

* “We are **full of joy** even when we suffer” (NIRV)

* “We **rejoice** in our sufferings” (ESV)

* “We **gladly suffer**” (CEV)

* “We are **happy** even when we have troubles and pain.” (EASY)

Seeing our difficulties, struggles & suffering differently is definitely a PARADIGM SHIFT.

We need to remember: Our PAIN & SUFFERING matter to God.

Exodus 3:7 (NIV)

The Lord said, “I have indeed **seen** the misery of My people in Egypt. I have **heard** them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am **concerned** about their suffering.”

The authors of Scripture invite us to REFRAME how we see ourselves, and what we are going through.

1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

“Dear friends, I urge you, as **foreigners** and **exiles**, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.”

1 Peter 2:11-12 (MSG)

“Friends, **this world is not your home**, so don’t make yourselves cozy in it.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 invites us to view life as **A RACE**.

We GROW the most when off the grid.

Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)

“**Endure hardship as discipline**; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?”

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

“2 **Consider it pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, **whenever you face trials of many kinds**, 3 because you know that **the testing of your faith** produces **perseverance**. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything.”

James 1:2 (EASY)

“My Christian friends, remember to be happy, even when many kinds of trouble happen to you. **Troubles can help you.**”

What if we **REFRAMED** it as some of the Authors of Scripture have said and take our Wilderness experiences as an **OPPORTUNITY**.

The Wilderness is an opportunity to:

*Set aside the **VICTIM** mentality

*See & **RESPOND** differently –

Numbers 14:6-9 (NIV)

6 **Joshua** son of Nun and **Caleb** son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “**The land** we passed through and explored **is exceedingly good**.

8 If the Lord is pleased with us, **He will lead us into that land**, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord. And **do not be afraid** of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but **the Lord is with us**. Do not be afraid of them.”

***GROW** –

Job 23:10 (NIV)

“But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”

***TRUST** –

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

16 **Shadrach, Meshach** and **Abednego** replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, **the God we serve is able to deliver us** from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. 18 **But even if He does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

***GLORIFY** God –

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIRV)

“6 Because you know all this, you have great joy. You have joy even though you may have had to suffer for a little while. You may have had to suffer sadness in all kinds of trouble. 7 Your troubles have come in order to prove that your faith is real. Your faith is worth more than gold. That’s because gold can pass away even when fire has made it pure. **Your faith is meant to bring praise, honor and glory to God**. This will happen when Jesus Christ returns.”

*Gain **HEAVENLY** rewards –

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NIRV)

“16 We don’t give up. Our bodies are becoming weaker and weaker. But our spirits are being renewed day by day. 17 Our troubles are small. They last only for a short time. **But they are earning for us a glory that will last forever**. It is greater than all our troubles.”