

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

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Do Not Waste Your Wilderness (Part 5)

Study on Endurance: NOT TO “WASTE YOUR WILDERNESS” By Autumn Crew/FAI Pt. 5

Right after Paul’s bold statements about the desire to know Christ, he then makes the audacious claim that he can “do all things through Him.” [3] Again in this statement, penned from prison, he was speaking about suffering.

It’s so easy to read this passage and feel empowered to climb mountains, but Paul was navigating low valleys. Before saying he could do anything, he wrote: “For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”[4]

So then, if grief paves the way for us to know our God in such a deep way, why are we constantly avoiding it? I believe it’s because when we imagine the wilderness, we only picture the strife—we can’t imagine the treasures that flow there. We can’t imagine the unfathomable grace. So we run. But when we finally let go and lean in to it, we start to find the riches.

Your wilderness could be simply loneliness—being isolated is a painful desert all on its own. Your wilderness could be that you haven’t heard from God in years, feeling spiritually dry, or seeing emptiness in your life where you thought there would be abundance. Your wilderness could be that all your plans got demolished, and now you see a blank horizon—you’re looking out at an empty landscape of nothing but sand.

Wilderness is uncharted territory, lack of direction—and lack in general.