

WILDERNESS

THE ONLY WAY AROUND IS THROUGH

Wilderness Series

Part 3 - "Don't Stop Believing"

Small Group Material

May 20th, 2018

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *You don't have to understand HOW it matters in order to believe that IT matters.*

Study Verses: *Matthew 4:11, Luke 4:13, Hebrews 2:18, Hebrews 4:15-16, Romans 5:2-5, 1 Peter 4:1-3*

Key Points

- *Experiencing temptation isn't a reflection of a lack of maturity.*
- *What we fill ourselves with after facing temptation is critical to how we recover. We need to create space for recovery.*
- *The battle of belief centers on surrendering our power for His provision, our will for His ways and our lives for His purposes.*
- *Perseverance produces character.*
- *When we quit trusting we quit obeying and when we quit obeying we stop believing.*
- *Faith is an activator. It starts a process.*
- *We often forsake the very thing (FAITH) that can sustain us through our struggles.*
- *The validity of the struggle isn't the main issue, but rather what our attitude is in the midst of the struggle.*

ENCOUNTER

- **Over the years how have you internalized facing repeated temptation and continual struggles (I'm a bad Christian, I'm being punished, I give up, this is never going to end, I've been good...this shouldn't be happening, etc.)?**
- **We don't think our way away, we behave our way away. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How does a lack of trust influence our obedience and later on our belief?**
- **In what ways do we either overestimate temptation or underestimate our struggles?**
- **What's the difference between sustaining hope and relieving hope?**

FORMATION

- **Read Hebrews 2:18 and Hebrews 4:15-16. How does understanding that Jesus empathizes with our weakness impact the way we approach Him in prayer when enduring struggles?**
- **Read Romans 5:2-5 and 1 Peter 4:1-3. Do you believe God has a grander purpose for the struggles you encounter? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **Read Matthew 4:11 and Luke 4:13. Why are recover, rest and refueling necessary after facing a season of temptation? What is the danger in believing that if we more spiritual we wouldn't face temptation continually?**

EXPRESSION

- **What is at the heart of the temptations you continue to face? How are you attempting to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way or putting your needs above His own?**
- **Think of the issue you struggle with the most. What lies are you believing when you give in to this temptation? How does Scripture demolish those lies?**
- **Where do you need to recover, rest and refuel from a season of temptation? How can you tend to your heart this week?**