

28-Do You Have a Wilderness Mentality?

In her book “Battlefield of the Mind”, Joyce Meyer asks --- why the Israelites had to wander in the desert for 40 years when it was only an 11-day trip to the promised land? She highlights the Wilderness Mentality of the Israelites and explains that we too can allow Wilderness Mentality to keep us wandering and not enjoying the life our Creator has designed for us.

Here’s the checklist. Which of these Mentalities is depriving you of all God has planned for your life?

My future is determined by my past and my present.

I don’t want to take responsibility!

I can’t take it if things are too hard!

Don’t make me wait-I want it now!

It’s not my fault!

My life is so miserable!

I don’t deserve God’s blessings!

Why shouldn’t I be jealous?

I’m doing it my way!

What do all nine Wilderness Mentalities have in common? They are all lies! The devil uses one or more of these to steal your joy. He uses them to deprive you of all that God’s plan holds for you. God loves you with an unconditional love. He can forgive your selfishness, your pride, your lack of humility, your “stinkin’ thinking”, your jealousy, your impatience. Every one of these nine Wilderness Mentalities has a single cure--- Jesus. When He died on the cross for your sins He did not put an expiration date on this promise to love you regardless of whom you are, what you do and how you behave. He is the cure for each of these Wilderness Mentalities. But you must recognize your affliction and bring them to Him. You cannot cling to your thinking and expect a renewed mind. The old must go to allow the new to replace it.

When we are honest we can see one or more of these mentalities in our life. I was a do it my way kind of guy. I had to see that in myself before I could

expect Jesus to do a “make over”. When I acknowledged my stubbornness and asked the Holy Spirit to vanquish that negative characteristic of me I was given a new mindset and a new characteristic. I now pray for his guidance. I ask Him to make clear to me the way I should go. I often find I must wait for an answer to that prayer. His timing is often not my timing. But His timing is the RIGHT timing.

The solution to any of these Wilderness Mentalities is **Romans 12:2**-“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— His good, pleasing and perfect will”. You can come to Christ and never experience the full gift He has to offer if you continue to cling to your old thinking. If you allow the Holy Spirit full and unfettered access to your heart and mind and ask Him to transform your thinking He will gladly answer your prayer. What are you waiting for? Haven’t you spent enough time in the Wilderness?

Personal Reflection:

How many of the nine Wilderness Mentalities did you check? Are you ready to leave the wilderness today? What steps will you take today to leave the wilderness?

Group Discussion:

Share how your Wilderness Mentality has interfered with His plan for your life.

How can the group encourage Romans 12:2 to take root in your heart and mind?