

Remember to Still Walk with the Lord... Even in the Wilderness

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024



The Hebrew Word for Wilderness

מִדְבָּר mid'bar **desert**

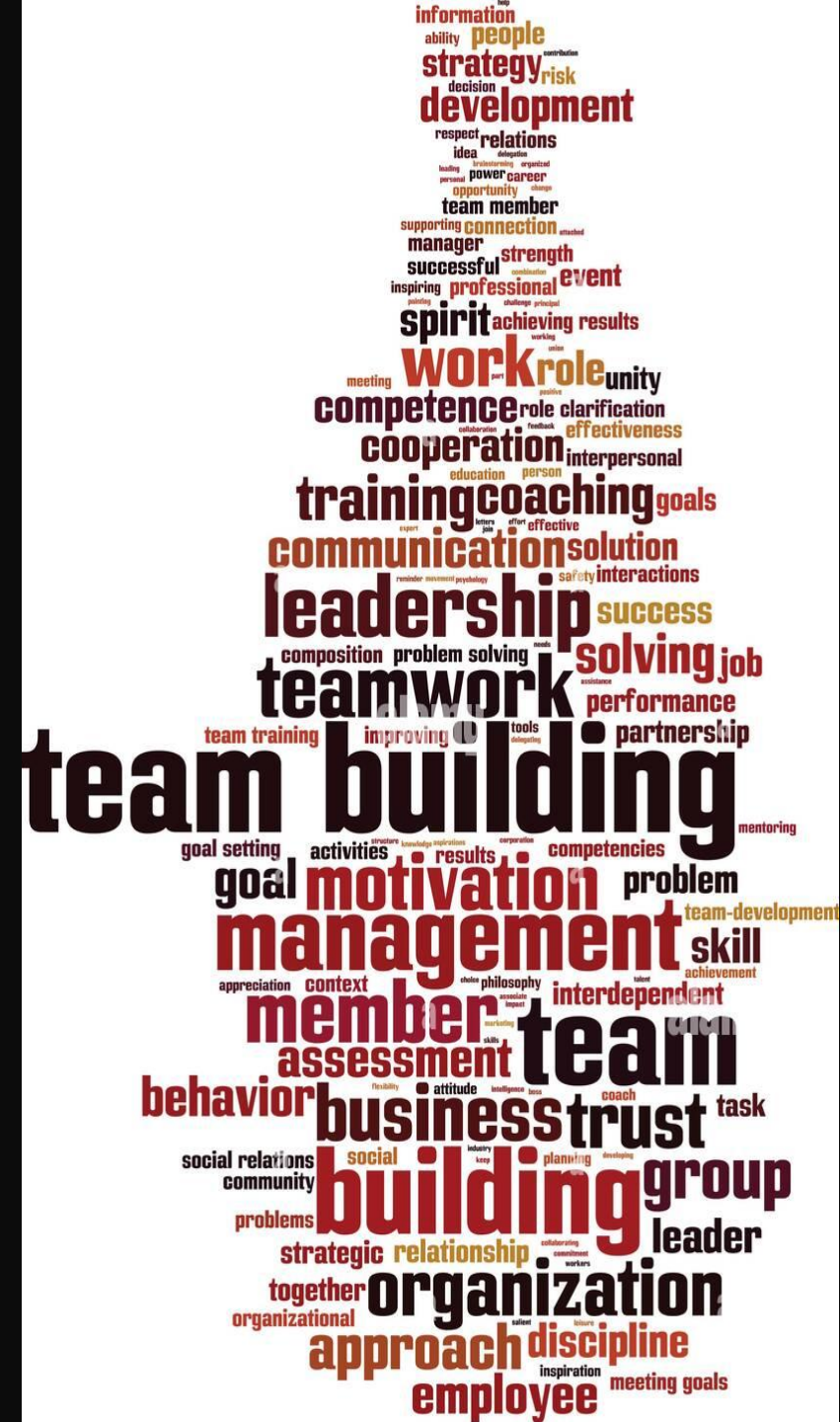
דָּבָר davar word, thing,

דִּבֶּר dibber to speak, talk; discuss



- **In the midst of so many voices and words exchanged, how can we be still and recognize His voice?**

- **How are we to respond to our walk with the Lord in the wilderness?**



Deuteronomy 8:1-5

1 Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors.

2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.



Deuteronomy 8:1-5

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

4 Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.



Remember to Still Walk with the Lord... Even in the Wilderness

- (1) **Accompaniment**
- (2) **Appointment**
- (3) **Alignment**

(I) Accompaniment – Well-cared-for Children

Deut.8:2a) the Lord your God **led you all the way** in the wilderness these forty years...

Deut.8:15 He **led you through** the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.

GOD LED THEM THROUGH ALL THE WAY



(I) Accompaniment – Well-cared-for Children

Deut.8:3a) He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then **feeding you with manna**, which neither you nor your ancestors had known...

Deut.8:4 Your **clothes did not wear out** and **your feet did not swell** during these forty years.

GOD PROVIDED FOR THEM - BASIC NECESSITIES



Why 40 years?

Numbers 14:34 “Because your men explored the land for forty days, you must wander in the wilderness for forty years—a year for each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy.’



(I) Accompaniment – Well-cared-for Children

Exodus 13:21, AMP The [presence of the] LORD was going before them by day in a pillar (column) of cloud to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, so that they could travel by day and by night.

GOD WAS WITH THEM (IN SPITE OF)



(2) Appointment – Working of God

Deut.8:2b) to **humble and test** you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Deut.8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to **humble and test** you so that in the end it might go well with you.

(2) Appointment – Working of God

Pray for an expectant end result and hopeful outcome...

Deut.8:1b) you may **live** and **increase** and **may enter and possess the land the Lord promised** on oath to your ancestors.

For our young and next generation...

(1) Prepare them (2) Protect them (3) Pray for them (Pray with them)

Through *TESTING *TRAINING *TRANSFORMING



Through *TESTING*

- One way God determines our authenticity.
- A faith that has not been tested is faith that cannot be trusted.
- God knows our heart already. He just wants to bring it out in our character.
- Our words and actions eventually reveal what's going on inside of us.

Through *TRAINING*

- God is raising up a “Joshua Generation”
- The training ground is the wilderness
- Preparation for something ahead...
- Deut.8:5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.
- Hebrews 12:5-11

Through *TRANSFORMING*

- **Purifying us from inside out**
- If our heart is after God, we will love, obey and seek Him, even in the wilderness and He would be found by us.
- **Refining us through fiery trials (1 Peter 1:7)**
- These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

(3) Alignment – Word of God

Deut.8:3b man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Hit **HOME**:

- **H**arken (listen)
- **O**bedience
- **M**e / **M**y heart
- **E**ncounter / **E**xperience

(3) Alignment – Word of God

Exodus 20

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to **test you**, so that **the fear of God will be with you** to keep you from sinning.”

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.



(3) Alignment – Word of God

Fearful of God ≠ The fear of God

Stayed at a distance – no direct relation

- no consistent connection
- no daily communication
- no heartfelt devotion

* Learn to hear from God * Learn to listen to His still small voice

Our Supreme Example – The Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 3:21 ... Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and **the Holy Spirit descended on him** in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 4:1 Jesus **being filled with the Holy Spirit**... was led by the spirit into the wilderness.



Remember to Still Walk with the Lord... Even in the Wilderness

(1) Accompaniment – Well-cared-for Children

* God led them * God provided * God was with them

(2) Appointment – Working of God

* Testing * Training * Transforming (Purifying & Refining)

(3) Alignment – Word of God

* Hit H.O.M.E.

