

WANDERING HEARTS

TEXT: (Hebrews 3:9-11, TPT)

⁹ There your fathers tested me and tried my patience even though they saw my miracles for forty years *they still doubted me!* ¹⁰ This ignited my anger with that generation and I said about them, ‘They wander in their hearts just like they do with their feet, and they refuse to learn my ways.’ ¹¹ My heart grieved over them so I decreed: ‘They will not enter into my rest!’”

INTRODUCTION

1. “I described them as wicked wanderers whose hearts would not follow my ways or keep my words”(Psalm 95:10, TPT).
2. “Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their dead bodies were scattered around the wilderness.

Now, all these things serve as types and pictures for us—lessons that teach us not to fail in the same way by callously craving worthless things and practicing idolatry, as some of them did. For it is written: The people settled in to their unrestrained revelry, with feasting and drinking, then they rose up and became wildly out of control!

Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, which caused the death of twenty-three thousand on a single day. Nor should we ever provoke the Lord, as some of them did by putting him to outrageous tests that resulted in their death from snakebites day after day. And we must not embrace their ways by complaining—grumbling with discontent, as many of them did, and were killed by the destroyer!

All the tests they endured on their way through the wilderness are a symbolic picture, an example that provides us with a warning so that we can learn through what they experienced. For we live in a time when the purpose of all the ages past is now completing its goal within us. So beware if you think it could never happen to you, lest your pride becomes your downfall” (I Corinthians 10:5-12, TPT).

I. A HEART STRESS TEST

A. Deliverance and Beyond

1. “Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. ‘The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him” (Exodus 15:1-2, NIV).

B. Bitter Water Led to Bitter Hearts

1. “There your fathers tested me and tried my patience even though they saw my miracles for forty years *they still doubted me!*” (Hebrews 3:9, TPT).
2. “So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?” (Exodus 15:24, NIV).
3. “And we must not embrace their ways by complaining—grumbling with discontent, as many of them did, and were killed by the destroyer!” (I Corinthians 10:10, TPT).
4. “Live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves” (Philippians 2:14, TPT).
5. “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Philippians 2:14, NIV).
6. “We look away from the natural realm and we focus our attention *and expectation* onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith’s perfection” (Hebrews 12:2, TPT).

C. Bitter Experiences Can Lead to Future Victories

1. "Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink" (Exodus 15:25, NIV).
2. "The mighty Spirit of Lord Yahweh is *wrapped* around me because Yahweh has anointed me...to strengthen those *crushed by despair* who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful bouquet in the place of ashes, the oil of bliss instead of tears, and the mantle of joyous praise instead of the spirit of heaviness" (Isaiah 61:1, 3, TPT).

II. A HEART PROBLEM

1. "Don't compare yourself to the rich. Surrender your selfish ambition and evaluate them properly. For no sooner do you start counting your wealth than it sprouts wings and flies away like an eagle in the sky—here today, gone tomorrow!" (Proverbs 23:4-5, TPT).
2. "Lot lifted his eyes and carefully surveyed the land around him all the way to Zoar. He noticed that the Jordan Valley was fertile and well-watered.... It looked *beautiful*, like the garden of Yahweh, or like Egypt. So Lot chose to settle in the Jordan Valley" (Genesis 13:10-11, TPT).
3. "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom" (Genesis 13:12, KJV).
4. "The two angels came to Sodom while Lot was sitting at the city's gateway" (Genesis 19:1, NIV)
5. "At dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, 'Go! Take your wife and your two daughters and leave or you will be consumed in the judgment about to come to the city!' But Lot hesitated, so the angels grabbed his hands and the hands of his wife and daughters and brought them outside the city, because Yahweh was merciful to them" (Genesis 19:15-16, TPT).

A. Your Heart—The Core of Your Being

1. "There is nothing more deceitful than the heart of man... Man's heart is sick, *in need of healing*" (Jeremiah 17:9, TPT).
2. "Keep creating in me a clean heart. Fill me with pure thoughts and holy desires, ready to please you" (Psalm 51:10, TPT).

B. Contentment

1. "I have learned to be satisfied in any circumstance" (Philippians 4:11, TPT).
2. "I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty" (Philippians 4:12-13, TPT).
3. "Run from all these errors. Instead, chase after true holiness, justice, faithfulness, love, hope, and tender humility. So fight with faith for the winner's prize! Lay your hands upon eternal life, to which you were called and about which you made the good confession before the multitude of witnesses!" (I Timothy 6:11-12, NIV).

C. Godliness with Contentment

1. "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:6, NIV).
2. "I seek with all my heart to have a clean conscience toward God and toward others" (Acts 24:16, TPT).

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3. "I have fought an excellent fight. I have finished my full course *with all my might* and I've kept my heart full of faith. There's a crown of righteousness waiting in heaven for me, and I know that my Lord will reward me on his day of righteous judgment. And this crown is not only waiting for me, but for all who love and long for his unveiling" (II Timothy 4:7-8, NIV).

III. CONTENTMENT—THE BY-PRODUCT OF TRUSTING GOD

A. Great Gain Through Contentment

1. Joy and contentment are not a coincidence; they are the results of a choice.
2. We can choose a life of contentment in Jesus Christ by trusting Him, and circumstances cannot alter that choice.
 - a. "I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty" (Philippians 4:12-13, TPT).
3. Paul's secret to contentment:
 - a. "Let joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, TPT).

B. Don't Be Anxious

1. "Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell him every detail of your life, then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ" (Philippians 4:6-7, TPT).
2. "Pour out all your worries and stress upon him *and leave them there*, for he always tenderly cares for you" (I Peter 5:7, TPT).

C. Be Prayerful and Thankful in Everything

1. "Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude" (Philippians 4:6, TPT).
2. "And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:18, TPT).

CONCLUSION

1. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5, KJV).
2. "Everything we could ever need for life and godliness has already been deposited in us by his divine power. *For all this was lavished upon us* through the rich experience of knowing him who has called us by name and invited us to come to him through a glorious manifestation of his goodness. As a result of this, he has given you magnificent promises that are beyond all price, so that through *the power* of these tremendous promises we can experience partnership with the divine nature, by which you have escaped the corrupt desires that are of the world" (II Peter 1:3-4, TPT).