

Key Verses:

Isaiah 41:18 (NASB) "I will open rivers on the bare heights and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land fountains of water. **Isaiah 44:3 (NASB)**

For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring And My blessing on your descendants;

John 4:14 (BSB) But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a fount of water springing up to eternal life."

John 7:37-39 (BSB) 37On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and called out in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38Whoever believes in Me, just as the Scripture has said: 'Streams of living water'" will flow from within him. 39He was speaking about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. For the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Opening: Some have said that Pentecostals focus too much on the Holy Spirit, that we should focus on other things more. While balance is important many of these people are ignorantly leading you away from the source of your strength and life by misunderstand the Holy Spirit's role in the Christian's life. As shepherds we are called to teach you how to go directly to the source of life. The breakthrough you need most desperately does not come through a man, a religion or even the church but through the person of the Holy Spirit who dwells within the believer. Jesus taught clearly that the Holy Spirit would guide and lead you in this life. He is your very best friend and the one you need to listen to. He will not leave you dry or barren.

1. **The Solution for the Dry Ground Psalm 63:1-5 (ESV)** 1O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ** David the Psalmist connects His satisfaction in God's presence with praising God with His mouth. David said he looked for the cure for His thirst in the sanctuary of God! David made the Lord the source of His Joy and satisfaction.

- a. **Life Lesson:** God is more than able to satisfy our dry and weary condition with the goodness of His presence. He is an overwhelming God who fills to overflowing every empty place through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit!
 - b. **The cure for dryness:** We were made by God for a **garden existence**. To experience the fruitfulness of the land and delight in the abundance of His love and grace. However, this world suffers under the heavy burden of its sin and consequent separation from God. The separation from God causes a dryness to occur in our spirit and world. The Holy Spirit is God's solution for this dryness. ** We desperately need the refreshing rain of God's presence to fall upon us, to heal our wounds, open our eyes, and fill us with the love we need to love this world like Christ.
 - c. **Satan's Scorched earth Policy:** Is a military strategy that aims to destroy anything that might be useful to the enemy while it is advancing through or withdrawing from a location. Any assets that could be used by the invading enemy may be targeted, for example food sources, water supplies, transportation, communications, industrial resources, and even the locale's people themselves. ** We are an invading enemy to Satan and He has made this world a wasteland that we cannot **sustain ourselves in**.
 - d. **The world is Diametrically opposed to God: James 4:4** "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is **enmity with God?** Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world **makes himself an enemy of God**. Friendship with the world is enmity with God."
 - e. **A searching Question:** Is there anything in you that upholds the desires, standards and affections of the world that are keeping away from you, the things that God desires for you? ** Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart today and pull out of you anything that is hindering you from Him.
 - f. **Life Lesson: The Christian cannot sustain himself on that which comes from the world since it is in opposition to God setting itself up as a hinderance to God's desires and will.**
 - g. **Since this is true:** God has provided a way to sustain you on your journey and in your work for the Kingdom through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit!
- 1. The Overcomer in the Wilderness Matthew 3:16-17- 4:4 (NIV)** ¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become

bread.” 4Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

- a. **Wilderness: A barren desert wasteland.** The Holy Spirit leads the Son of God into the wilderness to show the power of a life that is full of Him.
 - b. **Jesus resisted Satan full of the Holy Spirit:** He looked weak to the world and to Satan but the farther away He lived from His flesh the closer He was to His Father and The Spirit. **The Wilderness temptation is proof that you do not need the world to defeat the devil, only a life full of God!**
 - c. **John 6:63** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts Profits for nothing. The words I have spoken to you--they are full of the Spirit and life.
 - d. **Life Lesson: The flesh of humanity can never produce the fruit of the Kingdom. Only a life yielded and surrendered to the Holy Spirit can have a lasting impact on eternity.**
 - e. **Deserts are not empty but full of temptation:** For God to get your attention and cause you to learn to lean on Him He will cause your life to go through a wilderness. The wilderness is full of the same things Jesus encountered which are not unique to Him but are the same for all of us.
 1. **1st John 2:16** For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world.
 2. **Physical Pleasure:** These are Cravings for things that gratify or indulge our fallen flesh nature.
 3. **Cravings for things we see:** The world offers a continuous opportunity to covet and become unsatisfied with your own lot in life. **Ecclesiastes 1:8** “The eye is never satisfied.”
 4. **Pride in our achievements and possessions:** This is to have a desire to be seen and desired or honored for what one does and has. This is self-promoting, self-seeking, self-centered, SELFIE! (Think Facebook and enough said)
 5. Jesus was tempted in these things and overcame them so that as He ministered to others, He would have power over these things. He defeated them so that you might defeat them in your wilderness.
2. **Making Gardens in the Desert Luke 13:6-9** 6Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. 7So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ 8“ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. 9If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

a. God wants to produce the fruit in your life but there are a few things that are keeping this from happening.

1. You must admit that there are areas in your life that are barren, fruitless, and lacking God in it. (This is the hardest to do because our barrenness in any area of our lives is usually rooted in our own pride.

a. Question? How do we know if we are letting our pride bring barrenness? Answer: We are not being teachable, correctable, or humbled by the word of God. Instead of letting the word judge our thoughts and intentions we instead judge the word.

2. You must let God pull weeds out of your mind and heart. What are the weeds?

a. Weeds of wrong beliefs based on unbiblical teachings. **Matthew 13:58**
Be careful who you listen to, also do not just get one side of an argument all the time. You become like the people you feed from. Learn to have many sources, even from different backgrounds that you can glean from because one person doesn't know it all!

b. Weeds of wrong relationships (Bad company corrupts good morals **1st Cor. 15:33**)

c. Weeds of low standards. (You don't know what good or great is, so you settle for mediocre or bad)

3. You must fertilize the soil of your life with the things of the Holy Spirit to grow correctly.

a. Fertilizer helps things grow by giving it the nourishment and resources it needs.

b. Life Lesson: Remember the world is a desert so you are going to have to bring your own fertilizer, the world cannot give it to you!

c. The word alive in your heart will produce the fruit of the Spirit on the tree of your life.

d. The deliberate and faith filled prayers of communion with God will produce fruit on the tree of your life.

e. The worship and exaltation of God through the fruit of your lips will remove pride from your heart and place situations in your life back in their proper perspective.

f. Consistent fellowship with other true believers will help to give you wisdom, examples of faith and additional strength to grow in areas you are lacking. ** We need other believers to help us because sometimes we are blind to things in our lives and deaf to the voice of God speaking to us.

4. You must give it time to turn around and not give up so easily.

PERSERVERANCE!

- a. **James 1:3-4** 3because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- b. **God wants you to be His Garden even though this world is a desert so don't give up.**
- c. Do not doubt in the dark what The Holy Spirit spoke to you in the light. Don't give up in the valley on your way to the mountain top.
- d. **Altar:** Let the Spirit search your heart and remove the weeds of this life, Refreshing of the Holy Spirit, fresh strength for the battle,