



*Why Now....*

*Why Me....*

*Why This...*

*Psalms 66:8-12*





## *Psalms 66:8-12 (NLT)*

*8 Let the whole world bless our God and loudly sing his praises.*

*9 Our lives are in his hands, and he keeps our feet from stumbling.*

*10 YOU have tested us, O GOD; YOU have purified us like silver.*

*11 YOU captured us in your net and laid the burden of slavery on our backs.*

*12 Then YOU put a leader over us. We went through fire and flood,*

***BUT YOU BROUGHT US TO A PLACE OF GREAT ABUNDANCE.***



# Introduction

*Most People Desire The Destination Without The Process Of Development  
We Trust That God Has A Desired Place Of Blessing  
Yet We Often Complain About The Designed Path To The Blessing*

*God never reveals the Details to the **DESIRED PLACE**...*

*If God Would Give You The Details Of*

- 1) What You Would Lose*
- 2) What You Would Have To Endure*
- 3) The Pain You Would Have To Suffer*

*Would You Still Sign Up For The Blessing?*

*All these things are necessary to get us in POSITION... **To RECEIVE WHAT HE PROMISED**  
This Place may not be **GEOGRAPHICAL**, it may be **SPIRITUAL**,  
Paul had gone through ups and downs... And then he landed **IN A PLACE**...  
I've learned that whatever state I'm in to be content...  
I've learned how to abase; I know how to abound... Any way you Bless Me Lord... I'll Be Satisfied*



## Introduction

Most people don't understand **THE PROCESS** to get to "**THIS PLACE**"  
That's why many people are enamored with what you have,  
but are not willing to **GO THROUGH** what you went through...

They want **THE DESTINY** without **THE JOURNEY**... They want **THE POSITION WITHOUT THE PROCESS**  
They want **THE STUFF WITHOUT THE STRUGGLE**... They want the **CROWN WITHOUT THE CROSS**

I have come to discover that **THE JOY** is in the **JOURNEY**  
I have come to discover that **THE STRENGTH** is in the **JOURNEY**  
I have come to discover that the **MATURITY** is in the **JOURNEY**

There are some things you can't **DISCOVER ABOUT GOD** in the **same place**, doing the **same thing**

That's why **THE PANDEMIC** was so **UNIQUE**  
We discovered some things about ourselves, that we did not know  
We discovered some things about others, that we did not know

There are some blessings that can't be **ENJOYED/EXPERIENCED** if you are not willing to **ENDURE**  
And because You **Endured The Rough Places**.... God has brought YOU to **THIS PLACE**...

Psalm 66 is a song of praise, not for a tragedy that occurred,  
but for the unseen work of God during a crisis ~  
There are some principles that we can apply to our lives moving forward



# THE PAIN OF THE PATH

*Psalm 66:12 (ESV)*

12 We went *through* fire and *through* the water;  
*YET* you have *BROUGHT US OUT* to a place of abundance.

Before you get to the *Place of Abundance*, God will send you through a Period of Testing.

Everything You went through, was for *TESTING*, *TRAINING* and *TRUSTING*...

When God *TESTS* and *TRAINS*... He develops *A LEVEL OF TRUST*...

God's design for *YOUR PATH* is to grow your faith so that you can be *COMPLETE* not lacking anything...  
God's design for *YOUR PATH* is not a life of *comfort, convenience, or complacency*... It is to become *COMPLETE*

The Psalmist says, when I think about the path, it was an *OBSTACLE COURSE* to test my faith...  
On the journey toward this place...don't be surprised.... If you experience *MORE PAIN THAN PLEASURE*  
Don't Be Surprised if....

Your Days are filled with difficult dilemmas and discouraging detours  
Your Tomorrow brings more trials, trouble, tests and turmoil  
You are betrayed by people you helped along the way  
You don't find support from those you assumed you could count on....

*Psalms 34:19 (ESV)*

19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, BUT THE LORD* delivers him out of them all.



# THE PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS

*Psalm 66:10 (ESV)*

*10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.*

*Many professing Christians have a faith that has NEVER BEEN TESTED therefore it can't be TRUSTED*

*They have a faith they can SHOUT about...but not sure if it will SEE THEM THROUGH...*

*If your faith is going to stand the test of time...It must go through something...*

*Before God gives Elevation ~ You must demonstrate ENDURANCE*

*Before God gives Promotion ~ You must demonstrate PERSEVERANCE*

*Before God gives Increase ~ You must demonstrate INTEGRITY*

*Before God gives Abundance ~ You must demonstrate ACCOUNTABILITY*

*God put us through some "TORTURE TESTS" ~ To Bring us to THIS PLACE OF ABUNDANCE*

*Tested us ~ "Bachan".... Means to Examine ... Prove by trial...*

*He examines our hearts and minds to see if we will remain TRUE TO HIM... James says testing of your faith produces PATIENCE... Testing requires us to move from our comfort zones into the UNKNOWN.*

*James 1:2-4 (NLT)*

*2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.*

*3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.*

*4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*



# THE PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS

## Psalm 66:10 (NKJV)

10 For You, O God, have tested us; You have *REFINED* us as silver is refined.

*He Purifies Us – Refines like silver*

On the journey to *THIS PLACE*, God puts you in the fire to *REFINE* you....

Tests are designed to bring out the best... But he also *PURIFIES TO ELIMINATE THE WORST*...  
God's design is not just to get you to the *place of destiny*, but to get you to a *point of deliverance*...

There are some things that God had to remove from us, before we get to this place of blessing  
If he blesses us without going through the furnace, we may have the tendency to get *THERE*  
with pride, arrogance, and an attitude. So, God will put us through the fire to burn of the impurities...  
*TO ELIMINATE THE IMPURITIES, IMPERFECTIONS...*

God's plan is to take you higher with *HUMILITY*

God's plan is to promote you with *PURITY*

God's plan is to elevate you without *ENVY*

God brought you out, but some stuff you decided to leave behind!!!

*Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)*

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also *lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely*, and let us *run with endurance the race that is set before us*,



# ***THE PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS***

*Psalm 66:11 (NKJV)*

*11 You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.*

*The NET suggests that we were in **CONFINED PLACES** ~ Often God limits our movement  
**Opportunity To Draw Closer To God...***

*Although he allows us to be in **TIGHT PLACES** ~ He keeps the window of heaven **OPEN**  
As tight as things were During The Pandemic ~ God was still moving in your life....*

*Not only does he put us in **TIGHT PLACES**... He places the burdens/afflictions on our backs...  
**NOTICE** the **YOU**.... God put them there...*

*We give the devil **too much credit**.... God will put afflictions on us for his **PURPOSE***

*He positions the burdens **STRATEGICALLY**  
There are times when it seems like the load is unbearable  
There are times when it seems like the load is too heavy  
**But HE KNOWS... JUST HOW MUCH... WE CAN BEAR***

***1 Chronicles 21:15 (ESV)***

*15 And God sent the angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but as he was about to destroy it, the Lord saw, and he relented from the calamity. And he said to the angel who was working destruction, **"IT IS ENOUGH; NOW STAY YOUR HAND."***



# ***THE PROTECTION HE PROVIDED***

*Psalm 66:9 (ESV)*

*9 who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.*

*Despite the chaos, conflict, and calamity ~ God was in control the whole time...*

*God has his hand on the thermostat the whole time...*

*God was getting us ready for THIS PLACE While Going Through the Process,  
He PROTECTED his PEOPLE*

*When I look back over my journey,*

*He was there all the time.... In the midst of my struggle... He was there... All the time*

***Psalms 121:5-8 (ESV)***

*5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.*

*6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*7 The Lord will keep you from ALL EVIL; he will keep your life.*

*8 The Lord WILL KEEP your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

*IS THAT YOUR TESTIMONY*

*“God kept our soul among the living”*



# ***OUR PRAISE FOR ARRIVING TO THIS PLACE***

*Psalm 66:8 (ESV)*

*8 Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard....*

*This Psalm is **A SONG OF PRAISE** for GOD'S AWESOME DEEDS*

*The Psalmist begins the Chapter with Praise*

*Shout for Joy to God all the Earth*

*Sing the glory of his Name*

*Give to Him glorious Praise*

*Say to God, How awesome are your deeds....*

*Sing Praises to HIS NAME...*

*Then he tells you **WHY** we should give HIM PRAISE....*

*We've gone through the Fire and the Flood and HE brought us out to a **PLACE of ABUNDANCE**....*

*When we reflect on how God has brought us through.... WE HAVE A **REASON** TO PRAISE HIM*

*When we reflect on how God has kept us through.... WE HAVE A **REASON** TO PRAISE HIM*

*When we reflect on how God has supplied our needs... WE HAVE A **REASON** TO PRAISE HIM*

***Everyone Has A Reason***

*Those Who Look Back ~ Those Who Look Around ~ Those Who Look Ahead*



# ***Biblical Example***

*Genesis 26:1-3 (ESV)*

*1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham.*

*And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.*

*2 And the Lord appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.*

*3 Sojourn in this land, and **I WILL BE WITH YOU AND WILL BLESS YOU...***

*Genesis 26:12-16 (ESV)*

*12 And Isaac sowed in that land and **reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him,***

***13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.***

*14 He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, **so that the Philistines envied him.***

*16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, **“Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”***

*Genesis 26:17-22 (ESV)*

*17 So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there.*

*18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father,*

*19 But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water,*

***20 the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac’s herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.”***

*21 Then they dug another well, and **they quarreled over that also...**22 And he moved from there and dug*

*another well, and **they did not quarrel over it.** So he called its name Rehoboth, saying,*

***“FOR NOW THE LORD HAS MADE ROOM FOR US, AND WE SHALL BE FRUITFUL IN THE LAND.”***



# God Desires For You To Be In Position For The Blessing

## Scriptural Reference

Abraham I will bless you... Leave from around your kinfolk and **GO TO A PLACE** I will show you Gets to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice his son, God didn't speak to him at again until the knife was **IN THE RIGHT POSITION**... Then God said, **NOW I KNOW** that you fear me...

Elijah could have gotten comfortable where he was, but God said unto him, go to the brook, I have commanded the Ravens **TO FEED YOU THERE**... You can stay **HERE** if you want to, but I have commanded **A BLESSING THERE**... He **GOES THERE** and then the blessing runs out... Then God says, I spoke to the widow woman, and she will feed you **THERE**...

David could have stayed in the same place... But he discovered that the table being prepared in the presence of his enemies was on **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VALLEY**... To enjoy the blessings at the table, he had to **GO THROUGH**... He discovered that if you keep walking with the Lord, friends get few, but goodness and mercy will follow... at the end of journey, he discovered that when friends run out, your cup can run over...

ARE YOU IN **POSITION** FOR THE BLESSING  
ARE YOU **PREPARED** FOR THE BLESSING



*Remember This....*

*THE PAIN OF THE PATH*

*THE PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS*

*THE PROTECTION HE PROVIDED*

*OUR PRAISE FOR ARRIVING TO THIS PLACE*



Mt Olive B.C. Of Greenwood

# **MIX AND MINGLE 2025**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

**NOON – 3 PM**



**COME FIND THE  
MINISTRY FIT FOR YOU!**

For More Information Visit The Website: [www.mtolivegreenwood.org](http://www.mtolivegreenwood.org)

## **Purpose**

**Emphasize Various Opportunities  
To Encourage Involvement  
Connect Members To Ministries**

**We Want To Introduce New Members  
We Want To Introduce Business Owners**

**A Day Of  
Fun, Games, Fellowship  
With Our Church  
Family!!!**