

## Learning the True Source of Contentment

In the midst of pain and confusion, David reminded himself about three wonderful facts concerning his God.

### 1. In our wilderness, God is committed to feed us to fullness.

*"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters."* - Psalm 23:1,2

**\*\* Only in the wilderness are we able to discover the supernatural provision of God. \*\***

Why does God take us through the wilderness?

*"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. 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."*

- Deuteronomy 8:2,3

#### A. To teach us gratitude.

*"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years..."* - Deuteronomy 8:2

#### B. To humble us.

*"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble you..."* - Deuteronomy 8:2

#### C. To test us.

*"Remember how the LORD your God led you...to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands."* - Deut. 8:2

#### D. To teach us priorities.

*"...whether or not you would keep His commands."* - Deuteronomy 8:2

#### E. To satisfy us with the things He supplies.

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### 2. In our failure, God is committed to restore us to fruitfulness.

*"...He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake."* - Psalm 23:3

God provide restoration and guidance for us.  
His name, His character, His reputation are at stake.

### 3. In our fear, God is committed to protect us by His faithfulness.

*"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."* - Psalm 23:4-6

Why should I fear no evil in the darkest valley?

*"...for you are with me..."* (see Deuteronomy 31:6)

Why should I be comforted by a rod and staff?

- The rod is for my enemies, to protect me.
- The staff is for me, to rescue and train me.

God blesses us "in the presence of our enemies."

*"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope."*  
- I Thessalonians 4:13

"Lovingkindness" is one of the most important words of the Old Testament. It means ...

- A. Relationship
- B. Helping
- C. Caring

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