

International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

The Wilderness...

“Jesus full of the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days. Being tempted by the devil...” Luke 4:1-2a

The setting of the temptation of Christ is The Wilderness. For most of us, I dare say, we have related some parts of our spiritual journey to The Wilderness— those seasons and moments of our life when we have felt isolated, alone, and empty; when nothing around us or within us has felt fruitful or prosperous. I think it would be safe to say that we can relate to The Wilderness. We do not see The Wilderness as a place or season we want to be - but something we must endure and overcome (the wilderness temptations of Jesus) and get it behind us. The Wilderness is not what we normally would relate to as being filled with Holy Spirit.

Luke tells us that Jesus, full (original word means complete and abounding in) of the Holy Spirit is led around in The Wilderness! My natural thought would be why? Why would the Holy Spirit have led Jesus into the place we want to avoid. Could there be more here than just enduring the temptations of the devil? While meditating on this verse I began to look deeper at this word ‘wilderness’ and was taken back at what I found.

Rabbi Sacks (former chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the UK) writing on this topic in an article [The Wilderness and The Word](#) makes this comment:

The Hebrew word midbar, wilderness, has the same root as the word dabar/davar, meaning “word” or “thing.” It has the same letters as medabber, “speaking.” It is in the wilderness that the Israelites hear revelation, the word or speaking of G-d.

Followed later by this conclusion

The pagan perceives the divine in nature through the medium of the eye, and he becomes conscious of it as something to be looked at. On the other hand, to the Jew who conceives G-d as being outside of nature and prior to it, the Divine manifests itself through the will and through the medium of the ear. He becomes conscious of it as something to be heeded and listened to. The pagan beholds his god; the Jew hears Him, that is, apprehends his will. (Heinrich Graetz, The Construction of Jewish History) While almost every other civilisation has been a culture of the eye, Judaism is a culture of the ear – of words, speech, listening, interpreting, understanding, heeding.

Historically God spoke to His people in The Wilderness - He led them out of the land of slavery into The Wilderness to speak to them and reveal who He was and who they were! In The Wilderness they heard the word and became the people of the word. Jesus the Word made flesh (John 1) goes into The Wilderness led by the Holy Spirit to hear the Voice of the Father and to proclaim the Voice of the Father. *“ And we His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* John 1:14

Maybe this gives us a broader understanding of how Jesus saw The Wilderness and why all the gospel writers describe a distinct rhythm of Jesus life in similar words in Luke *“But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”* (LK 5:16)

Beloved, especially to those who find themselves in The Wilderness, may I invite you to wrap a new understanding around the wilderness - see it no longer as the place of isolation and endurance - but the place of retreat to hear and listen? May I invite you to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to remove the drowning distractions that want to capture your attention and to listen for the Voice? **In The Wilderness we are being invited to lay aside the culture of noise and distraction and Hear ! “...hear oh Israel...” (Dt 6:5a) in the wilderness we are invited to hear the Word and become the people of the Word!**

Ben and Denise Bouwers

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And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips

Camp Sponsors....

every year that we have hosted Camp we have had incredible and unexpected moments - the 'suddenly' moments that we could not have planned happen and we watch the Spirit of God encounter young hearts!

Almost every year we fill every space available! **And almost every year** we have had families that come to us struggling to pay the already reduced camp registration.

There have been times we have been able to help by reducing the registration fee however, we have the price set to basically just meet costs consequently, we would still need to come up with the funds to cover the outlay. Truth is, every camper over our entire history has benefited from Camp Sponsorship's that have come from a small list of generous but consistent donors who believe in our camp concept. Perhaps your loved one has benefited in the past - we want to invite you to consider donating a gift to help remove any financial obstacle for campers/camp. **Anything you give towards Sponsoring Camp will be used for Camp - please just indicate it on a note or the memo line** - thank you for your kind consideration. Looking forward to Camp 2017!



***IHOP Fort Wayne
Children's Equipping Center
Summer Camp 2017
July 17—20
Limited spots available***

Where: Stillwater Retreat, Yoder, IN
Who: children ages 8-16+
Contact: Debi Shinn
260-485-3182
debishinn@yahoo.com



**Good Times with Friends as We Pursue the Lord and Fellowship with Him Together!
Don't Miss Out! Join us!**

a towel not a title
SERVOLUTION

**July 16, 12-2pm meeting at 3 Rivers Apts
No Event - No Promotion - simply embracing the DNA of the Kingdom.**

Following the example of Jesus (John 13) we invite you to take up a towel and wash the feet of the City after the 3 Rivers festival - helping to clean up after the Festival winds down.

Contact ben for more details—ben@bouwersfam.com

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him for His kingdom to be established.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

**IHOP Fort Wayne
5907 West Wallen Road,
Fort Wayne, IN 46818**

Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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