

## **The Fruit of the Wilderness**

by John W. Christopher

You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not (Deut. 8:2, NASB).

During my prison ministry I met an inmate who became my friend. Once I told him about some things that had been discouraging me. After listening he quoted the above verse.

The verse above explains why the Israelites remained in the wilderness. They wandered so they would be humbled. God also revealed what was in their hearts, proving whether they kept His commandments.

The same reasons are true about our trials. Adversity humbles us like nothing else. The wilderness tests us, proving what is in our hearts.

Trials reflect who we are. They reveal the truth about ourselves. Nothing shows what is genuine quite like adversity. Faith is easy in prosperity. But what kind of faith will we have in the wilderness?

A wilderness might look barren at first, but there is fruit if we search for it—probably more than what we might realize.

We should not fear the path into the wilderness. God has reasons for leading us there. Without the wilderness we would probably never discover the truth about ourselves.