

## There are Many Steps to the Wilderness Journey

I was listening to WPER, a local Christian Radio Station, and heard the morning announcers sharing something that another announcer had said. I have listened to this announcer over many years - she is a true Warriorette of Compassion; she shares so much wisdom, understanding, and love with her listeners. Anyway, the quote as I recall was from her friend who had said something like “there are many steps to the Journey.” And I thought what a great topic; I have some insights on this topic I could share with you.

As we can see from the Israelites in the Wilderness there were so many steps to take. After they gathered in all they would need for their journey from the world system, the Egyptians, they set out with Moses leading them, not knowing where they were going, but we know it was toward the Red Sea. There were many steps that had been taken to get to that point but they were still only near the beginning. But that is what a journey is - a lot of steps. Those steps can be like footsteps that we take every day or they can be bigger or they can even be “leaps” that require us to take huge steps or may be composed of several smaller steps that result in one “great leap” that have to be taken along the path with Trust and Faith, trusting in the Lord with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we read, they reach the edge of the Red Sea, and we find that Moses has to take one of those great leaps in order that the multitudes behind him can proceed further. Moses was a human like you and I who had spent much time developing a relationship with the Creator of the Universe. He trusted God. He had learned to trust God; he had learned to hear and follow His leading; Moses had had his own wilderness journey. So when he was instructed to hold a staff out across the Red Sea (Exodus 14,) he did what He (the Great I Am) showed him to do and that would have required a tremendous “leap of Faith.” Imagine an army pursuing you and the multitude you are leading and this was the answer? It was like an impossibility before him—something not passable, but God had a plan.

Sometimes in our own wilderness journeys, we come across stumbling blocks that seem to keep us from advancing further. There seems to be no way over them, or under them, or around them and we don't have a clue how to proceed, but that is when if we listen for the Lord's leading, He will help us to overcome that which has blocked our path so we can proceed further. And, as a result, having experienced the Lord's leading, overcoming something that we know that we could not do on our own, we become so much stronger in our relationship with the Lord and are more able to continue on the path before us just as Moses did. (Read Numbers 11:15-18.) Just as with Moses, we must take the steps necessary by Faith and Trust so the Lord can continue to lead us along the path that He has set before us. This reminds me of the book, Hinds Feet on High Places\*, by Hannah Hurnard, an allegory of the Wilderness Journey. I found it to be a very empowering book. You see, I was much like “Much Afraid,” the main character in the book.

So, yes, as I have shared in “The Path to Overflowing Hope,” the wilderness journey path will have many tests and trials. Jesus even said, “In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 KJV. You see, the wilderness journey is not complete without the trials and the tests. So why? I'll share from my own writings what the Lord has shared with me:

### **There is the Fiery Test of the Fiery Furnace:**

“This is where Warriors/Warriorettes\*\* have been purified; impurities of the world system have been skimmed from the surface and replaced with Strength of Compassion; able to reflect God's love as He pours into their hearts.”

### **There is the test: Molded on the Potter's Wheel:**

“With God’s hands surrounding and molding a lump of clay of failed hopes and dreams and plans in the world—replaced with Boundaries, Walls, and Strengths as God molds what once was with little purpose into a vessel able and capable to carry out His plans and desires and to be filled to the brim with Hope and His love to pour onto those who are broken and shattered by the world’s unfulfilled promises.” (Can you see how a character named Much Afraid in Hinds Feet on High Places\* would have been strengthened through this process?)

### **And the test: The Threshing Floor:**

“Where one has been sifted over and over; broken and beaten until all the chaff (needless and burdensome) has been removed leaving only that which is fortified in truth remains. **The scourging of the self nature; deception falls away.** It is no longer getting one’s needs met, but about making sure God’s Will be done.”

So, without the trials and tests, there would be no need for a journey process; it isn’t enough that the Israelites were set free from captivity (the world’s system.) They had to learn to have trust and faith in the One they followed. What would have happened to them had they entered the Promised Land without the steps and even leaps they had to make and take in the wilderness? It is part of the steps that we have to take in order that we can be/do what the Creator created us to be/do. To SOAR. To be Warriorettes/Warriors of Compassion. To reach our own Promised Land.

To end, I want to share from a personal note: The same morning before I heard the announcers on WPER Radio, I had shared an update about some garden vegetables we were growing with a friend by email. First, I had a great report to share about the green beans—they were doing spectacular. We were getting ready to harvest them and then “home can” them as part of building our pantry of food to be used especially in a crisis. The tomatoes on the other hand, have been attacked by insects, caterpillars, some fungi, and something called Blossom End Rot which just ruins beautiful tomatoes by causing a large rotting spot to appear on the bottom of the tomato. These conditions, all, have to be addressed by various means that we have to learn in order to treat each condition or we could lose our entire crop of 50 plants and have no tomatoes to “home can” for our pantry. My friend responded to my report: “That is really amazing (referring to the green beans,) unfortunate about the tomato plants, though. The good in that is that you get to learn how to fix it and what works.” I responded back: “And that is how I have found that God’s System works. The miracle is discovering the steps needed (by His leading.) Otherwise, if the miracle happens instantly, then we learn very little to help us along our journey. (I continued.) I sense another article to add to the website – more of the “steps” of the journey process like this one I have mentioned here.”

Now, in the Israelites’ Wilderness Journey, there were many “instant” miracles—one I have shared about Moses holding the Staff toward the water and the Red Sea Parting. But in my own life, I have found the major miracles have come through the process. In my own illness, had I not learned the lessons I had learned through all the steps taken, tests, and trials of my own wilderness journey of 12 years and 7 months, I would have still remained a captive; a “Much Afraid” type person or I would have had to have an “instant” miracle for every difficulty I came across. But, God had a plan. I want you to know I truly love sharing with you the parts of the plan I have to share. It is my great delight. Until the next time when the Lord gives me another message to share. Be empowered. Seek the Lord with your whole heart, mind, and soul.

Debbie

\* Hinds Feet on High Places, by Hannah Hurnard, Living Books, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL Copyright 1975

\*\* For an illustration of a Compassion Warriorette—see “Path to Overflowing Hope” Page 3. A Compassion Warriorette/Warrior is one who can see with compassion, speak with compassion, is driven by compassion which occurs after the selfish self-centered nature/the heart has been cleansed and purified as a result of the wilderness journey process—it is who we become—to be/do what the Creator has created the creation to be/do. The characteristics can be found in the “reprogramming” portion of “Deprogramming/Reprogramming our Hearts, Minds, and Souls” beginning around page 23. All is found at this website.