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Special Guest

Pastor Paul Rose

JOY AND THE WILDERNESS

The time in the wilderness provides life-defining moments. Jesus is confirmed by God as His Son. Often times, spiritual victories are followed by testing. God confirms it. The devil confronts it. If Jesus did anything wrong, it would have had disastrous consequences for all of us. But Jesus didn't--He overcame!

Reflection:

As you think about the wilderness, what are the places of beauty you see in it?

Write about a time you have experienced the wilderness.

What are the ways you experienced God during this time in the wilderness?

How did you define this season not as defeat but as a preparation for victory?

Pastor Paul's Top Tips for the Wilderness:

As you go through tough times, remember that there may be pain in the process. Jesus experienced pain too. He was human and had physical and emotional needs too.

As you go through your own wilderness, try not to focus on what you are giving up but what you are trying to gain. Keep that in front of you.

Your strength comes from the Lord. God's Word is completed and is a living Word. Spend time in prayer, fasting and seek God. Surround yourself with others who will support and encourage you.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Nehemiah 8:10 - The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans.

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