

In the Wilderness

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

December 14, 2025

Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. – 1 Kings 19:11-12 NLT

God With Us ... **Hebrew: "immanu"** ("with us") and **"El"** ("God")

Cf. Isaiah 7:14, 8:8, 8:10; Matthew 1:23

_____ – a dark, or difficult period in life

- We may enjoy God on the mountaintops, but we get to **Know Him Intimately** in the Valleys.

_____ - a period of testing, isolation, and struggle

A Wilderness Experience/Encounter ... 1 Kings 19

Elijah's Wilderness Experience ...

- An Awesome Expression of the _____ and _____ of God
- A _____ from the King's Wife
- In Personal Struggle ... _____

Elijah's Wilderness Encounter

- Elijah and his _____
- God _____ at each of _____
- God needed Elijah to Acknowledge his _____

Your deepest need becomes a _____ when it drives you to _____

So What?

1. Life is filled with seasons of difficulty that is painful "at the time" but later yields a harvest.
2. It is one thing to believe in God but it is quite another thing to trust God.
3. If you believe in Jesus and you rest in him, then "suffering will relate to your character like fire relates to gold." (Tim Keller)
4. These seasons of difficulty, while very real, should not deter us from doing what God has called us to do.

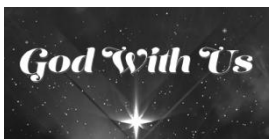
Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

CELEBRATE RECOVERY AT NR

When people walk through the doors of NR Church, they carry with them all the experiences that have helped form their habits and life coping skills—some healthy, and some broken. Celebrate Recovery is a program based on what Christ says about recovery and healing in His Sermon on the Mount. The program is for anyone who struggles to walk by faith to achieve deep peace and lasting freedom in Christ.

On December 7, 2025, Jason Hanshaw is facilitating a meeting for anyone interested in leading and helping launch Celebrate Recovery here at NorthRidge. Jason plans to do a "soft launch" of the program by journeying with leaders for a semester before launching fully sometime mid-year in 2026. Success of the program depends on the Holy Spirit working in the hearts and minds of those leading and participating in the program. Please pray consistently for the Lord to move! Pray for the leaders!

- That God will bless them abundantly, so they have all they need to abound in the ministry: equipping and anointing to facilitate leading the group, whatever is needed to be consistent and faithful to the ministry, a heart of compassion, and full obedience to take needs to the Lord. Philippians 4:19
- Pray the leaders seek first the kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33 Pray for the participants!
- That they believe God is working in their lives and that HE has the power to help them recover from their hurts and fears.
- That they voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in their lives and to humbly ask Him to remove any character defects.
- That they evaluate relationships, offering forgiveness to those who have hurt them and making amends for harm they've done to others.
- That they have a daily time with God for self-examination to Know God and His will...and the power to follow His will.



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Valleys – a dark, or difficult period in life

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Wilderness - a period of testing, isolation, and struggle

A Wilderness Experience/Encounter ... 1 Kings 19

Elijah's Wilderness Experience ...

- An Awesome Expression of the **Presence** and **Power** of God
- A **Threat** from the King's Wife
- In Personal Struggle ... **Depression**

Elijah's Wilderness Encounter

- Elijah and his **Obvious Needs**
- God Met Him at each of **His Needs**
- God needed Elijah to Acknowledge his **Deepest Need**

Your deepest need becomes a **Gift** when it drives you to **Depend upon God**

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