HELEN SANDERS 5-22-2024 A DESERT PLACE

There will be times that God leads us to a desert place just as Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit immediately after being baptized by John.

A desert place is a place of dryness. It will seem that you can hardly function. You are dry in the physical and dry spiritually.

In looking at Jesus as our example, we see in Luke 4 that he was *led by the Spirit* into the wilderness. It says in Luke 4:2, "Being forty days tempted of the devil, and in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered."

In that wilderness place, Satan tempted Jesus by misquoting scripture. He defeated him by quoting the true Word of God and Luke 4:13 says after this Satan departed for "a season."

You can be sure when we are led into a desert place that we will be severely tested just as Jesus was. But we must remember that our victory comes through quoting the word, fasting, and trusting God, just as Jesus did.

You might ask why God allows this. I would have to say it is to build our faith. When we can do things in our own strength then we do not rely upon God's strength. When we are dry, he becomes our living water. When we are without strength, he becomes our strength. We learn about the fellowship of his sufferings in the desert place.

We can choose to go to the dry desert place like Jesus did, and come out of it stronger than ever, or we can choose to resist it and be shallow in our walk of faith. The choice is ours.