

All the Prayers of God's People
June 30, 2020
Deuteronomy 1:1-8; Deuteronomy 8:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11

We began writing "All the Prayers of God's People" during a time of great uncertainty, some would say a wilderness experience. What began as a "few weeks" of prayer has now turned into a "couple of month's"! The journey through the wilderness is continuing for many in this world and for SOPC as we journey through decision about when and how to re-gather, perhaps our wilderness feels perpetual. It is to this journey that we offer today's prayer. Let us pray.

God, you've led us all to this wilderness to heal us, change us, and reveal yourself to us. We trust in you and your willingness and ability to provide for us here. When we grumble like the Israelites, Lord, teach us thanksgiving for the manna—the provisions which surround us even in the darkest valleys.

When we begin to wander in fear and unbelief, help us to believe in the land of milk and honey, of hope and rejoicing on the other side. When we are tempted to self-protect, isolate, or place our hearts high on a shelf out of reach, guide us to safely bring you our whole hearts and bodies. Help us to uncover what draws us away from you so that you can re-cover and heal.

When we want to hold back, and doubt your love, help us to grow deeper in our understanding of your love. Especially in the wilderness, we need reminders of how long, how wide, and how deep your love truly is. When we are tempted to dismiss your promises, help us to cling to the living hope you've provided in the grace of your Son, and in one another. Help us to remember that every resurrection follows a death and that joy exists in suffering and sorrow. Give us kingdom eyes to see you at work.

When we doubt your presence, give us a glimpse of your heart and your future; your call on our lives. You are helping us exercise every spiritual muscle in discerning your voice in brand new ways. Lord, we admit it's easy to spot you in the supernatural, in the spectacular, and in the fire, yet we struggle to hear that gentle whisper. Open our eyes to recognize you in the ordinary as well as in the extraordinary.

Quiet our hearts to hear your voice when we want to resist your will and your timing. Help us to lay down our agendas and our pride and instead live into submission and humility.

Remind us, Lord, on especially difficult days that this process is worth it with you always at our side. Let our own freedom journey, this independence week, have a domino effect on those closest to us, letting your love spread like wildfire in our hearts and our lives. Let us glorify you in all we do, Amen¹.

¹ <https://www.empoweredhomes.org/resource/prayer-for-the-wilderness/>