



Devotional: Dependence in Every Season

DEUTERONOMY 8 DEVOTIONAL

Reflection

Life often feels like it swings between two places: the wilderness and the promised land.

Some days feel dry and uncertain—like wandering without a clear map. As parents, especially those raising deaf/hard of hearing children, we may feel isolated, stretched, and unsure if we're doing anything right. We long for clarity, support, and resources that seem just out of reach.

Other days feel more stable. There's provision, community, maybe even progress. We catch glimpses of peace and think, *maybe we're finally getting somewhere*.

In Deuteronomy chapter 8, God speaks to both seasons. He reminds His people that He was present in the wilderness just as much as in the abundance. The hunger, the waiting, the uncertainty—it was not wasted. It was intentional. The wilderness exposed their need. But more importantly, it revealed God as their provider.

And that same truth holds for us.

1. God Uses the Wilderness to Shape Us

(Deuteronomy 8:1–4)

Moses reminds Israel to remember their 40 years in the wilderness. Why did God lead them there?

- To humble them
- To reveal what was in their hearts
- To teach them dependence

God allowed hunger—but then provided manna. He let them feel need—but never abandoned them. The wilderness was a time to refine His people and call their hearts back to Him.

In our own lives, pressure often reveals what’s already inside us. Like a sponge, what comes out when we’re squeezed exposes our hearts. For many of us, parenting—especially raising deaf and hard of hearing children—can feel like a wilderness.

Yet like the Israelites, our wilderness seasons can both reveal what was in our hearts and cause us to remember our Provider.

2. God Alone Truly Satisfies

(Deuteronomy 8:3)

“Man does not live by bread alone, but...by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

This verse points us directly to Jesus Christ.

- In Gospel of John 6:35, Jesus says He is the *bread of life*.
- In John 1:1, He is the *Word*.

Jesus is both the source of life and the sustainer of it. He alone satisfies.

But we live in a world full of substitutes—good things that quietly become ultimate things if we are not careful. We can have everything we need physically and still feel spiritually empty. True satisfaction isn't found in what we have—it's found in *Who we trust*

3. Contentment Isn't Found in Circumstances

Israel was about to enter a land where they would lack nothing (v. 9). But abundance brings its own dangers.

The apostle Paul the Apostle echoes this truth in Epistle to the Philippians 4:11–13: He learned to be content in both need and abundance.

Contentment isn't about having enough—it's about trusting that Christ is enough.

So we have to ask:

- Where do I feel like I lack right now?
- Do I believe Christ is sufficient in that place?

4. The Greatest Danger: Forgetting God

(Deuteronomy 8:11–16)

Moses gives a clear warning: *Don't forget the Lord*. He gives them this warning as they enter the Promised Land. Why? Because comfort has the tendency to subtly replace dependence on God to dependence on self.

- We start to believe that we've built something on our own
- We drift into self-reliance
- We forget who carried us and continues to carry us

Ironically, both hardship *and* abundance can pull us away from dependence:

- In hardship, we may doubt God's goodness

- In abundance, we may forget our need for Him

But Jesus Christ reminds us in John 15:5:

“Apart from me, you can do nothing.”

Forgetting God’s character naturally leads to self-reliance. But everything we have—strength, provision, opportunity—comes from Him.

5. Practices of Remembrance

To stay rooted in Him, we can:

- Reflect on answered prayers
- Journal God’s faithfulness
- Spend consistent time in Scripture
- Pray with humility and surrender
- Be in community with other believers who can remind us of God’s unchanging character
- Sometimes, even a physical posture—like kneeling—can help align our hearts with truth

Prayer

Father,

You are our provider in every season—whether in the wilderness or in abundance. Forgive us for the ways we rely on ourselves and forget You. Teach us to trust You more deeply, especially in the places where we feel a lack or a void. Shape our hearts as we parent, and help us lead our children from a place of dependence on You. Remind us daily that You have given us “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). You are enough to satisfy and sustain us.

Amen.