

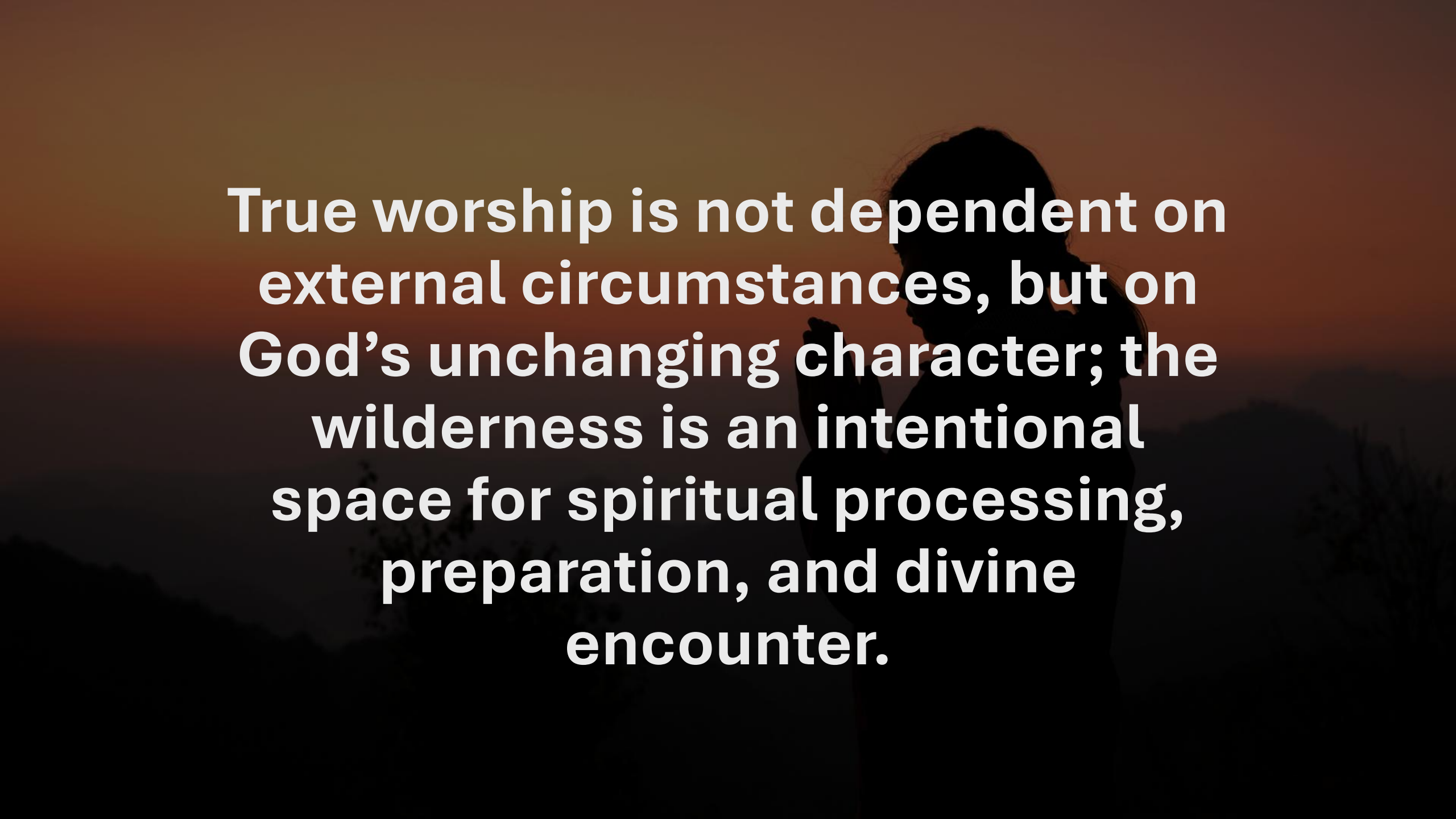
The background is a landscape with a tree on a horizon line. The image is split vertically: the left half is dark and moody, while the right half is a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the dark side.

Worship in the Wilderness: Discovering Living Water in Dry Places

Ps Chris Booth / Habakkuk 3:17–19

The CLG Pledge

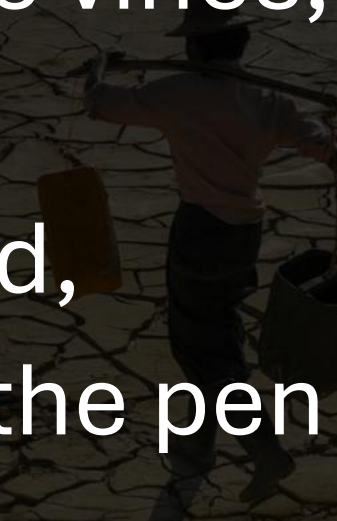
This is my Bible. I hold the Word of God that wins. I pledge to build my life upon it. I promise to meditate on what is written in it day and night, that I may know how to follow Christ. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, the Word will be my bread from heaven, my light in the dark, and shining armour in the day. I will store them in my heart. I pledge this to Jesus Christ, my Lord, the Word Incarnate, Immanuel from above. Amen!

A silhouette of a person with their hands clasped in prayer, set against a warm, orange and red sunset background. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

True worship is not dependent on external circumstances, but on God's unchanging character; the wilderness is an intentional space for spiritual processing, preparation, and divine encounter.

Habakkuk 3:17–19

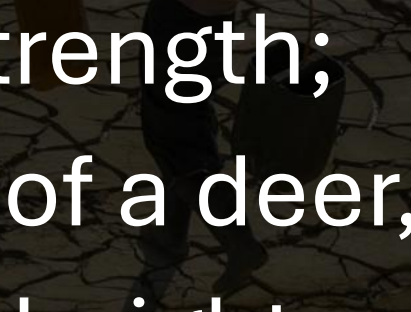
17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,

A person is walking across a vast, cracked, and dry landscape, carrying two buckets. The ground is parched and cracked into a mosaic of irregular shapes, reflecting the harsh, arid conditions described in the text. The person is seen from behind, walking away from the viewer towards the horizon. The overall scene is one of extreme drought and agricultural failure.

Habakkuk 3:17–19

18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

19 The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

A person is seen from behind, walking across a vast, cracked, and dry landscape. They are carrying a yoke across their shoulders, with a bucket hanging from each end. The ground is parched and cracked into a mosaic of irregular shapes, suggesting a severe drought. The background shows more of the cracked earth stretching towards a dark, hazy horizon.

CBV - Modern Paraphrase:

"Though the bank account reads zero and the cupboard stands bare,
Though the car sits empty and no work finds me there,
Though the rent bill looms heavy and the silence is deep,
And the worries of survival chase away my sleep—

Yet I will anchor my soul in the Lord,
I will dance in the grace of my Saviour, restored.
For the Sovereign Lord is the breath in my chest,
He makes me sure-footed when put to the test;
He grants me the stride of the mountain-born deer,
To climb over chaos, unburdened by fear."

**Divine
orchestration;
Wilderness is
a sacred,
intentional
path that God
leads us
through.**



The Divine Necessity: The wilderness as a God-ordained pathway

John 4:4 - Now he (Jesus) had to go through Samaria.

Jacob's Well: Roughly 40 miles (65 km) from Jerusalem, taking 2.5–3 days to walk.

Deuteronomy 8:2 - Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

JESUS' JOURNEY FROM JUDEA TO GALILEE via SAMARIA



Mediterranean Sea

GALILEE

Capernaum

Nazareth

Tiberias

Sea of Galilee

Mount Carmel

SAMARIA

Mount Gerizim (Nablus)

Sychar

Jacob's Well

Jericho

JERUSALEM

Bethlehem

JUDEA

Dead Sea

Jordan

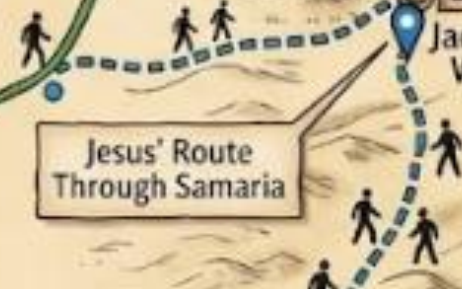
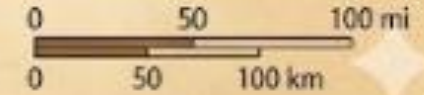
1 Central Samaria Route
Direct Route via Samaria
Approx. 80 miles (130 km)
Normal Pace: 5-7 days walking
Fast Pace: 4 days walking

Jacob's Well (Sychar)
Distance from Jerusalem: Approx. 40 miles (65 km)
Walking Time: 2.5-3 days at historical pace

A Jordan Valley Route
Eastern Bypass Route
Approx. 110 miles (180 km)
6-9 days walking
(Avoids Samaria)

B Coastal Plain Route
Western Coastal Route
Approx. 130 miles (210 km)
7-11 days walking

Jesus' Route Through Samaria



The Honest Thirst:

Acknowledging our need for God

Psalm 42:1-2

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living
God. When can I go and meet with
God?

Defiant Worship: Worshipping in Spirit and Truth

John 4:21-24

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Defiant Worship: Worshipping in Spirit and Truth

John 4:21-24

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”



Supernatural Strength: Springs in the desert

Isaiah 41:18 - “I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.”

John 4:13-14 - “Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

**Worship through
circumstances;
declare "yet I
will praise Him"
as a weapon
against fear.**

HOLY BIBLE



Do not allow your wilderness season to define your identity; you are not abandoned, forgotten, or defeated. Lift your eyes above all that you can see and choose trust over fear, faith over doubt, and worship over worry. The wilderness may actually be your portal to intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Step into worship right now—not because your circumstances are good, not because you have everything you need, but because God is good.



Declare today:

"Though the fig tree does not bud in my finances or my relationships, yet I will praise Him".

When everything else is stripped away, your defiant worship becomes your warfare, and God Himself becomes your endless supply.



Prayer

Sovereign Lord, even in dry seasons, You are my strength and refuge.

I turn from temporary wells, pride, and self-reliance to You, the source of Living Water.

I place my full dependence on Your unchanging character.

Though my circumstances are difficult, I offer You defiant worship, trusting You are preparing me in this wilderness, not abandoning me.



Prayer

I surrender my fears and doubts, inviting the Holy Spirit to flow within me and give me sure-footed grace for every height.

Lord, thank You for teaching me to worship in the wilderness.

I surrender my life to You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen





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CLGAdmin@clg.org.au



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