

"The Ministry of the Desert" Acts 8

Evangelist Philip went to Samaria where a great revival broke out. The sick were healed, demons were cast out, people received CHRIST and were filled with the Holy Spirit. But a strange thing happened. An angel appeared to Philip and told him to _____ the revival and walk _____ toward the _____. V.26 The command made _____.

1. There is a particular Ministry in the Desert for all of us. It is a place:
 - that is no _____ - that is hot, dry, and _____ - that is barren and _____
 - of despair, _____, disappointment, and discomfort - of no _____ and confusion - of being _____, where people don't understand, or even care
 - of _____ and suffering - of _____ learning
2. The Desert is a place where GOD says, "My dear son, my beloved daughter,"
 - "I want you to come _____" "I want you away from the _____"
 - "I want to get you _____ under the stars where I can talk to you"
 - "I want to give you a _____" "I want to _____ a word into your soul" - "I want to do a _____ work in your heart"
3. You may say, "I don't like the desert. I don't like being _____. I don't like being misunderstood." But GOD is saying, "I'm _____ into the Desert. And if I have to, I will _____ you there, because I want to meet you in a place, where I can have your _____."
4. Thank GOD for the mountaintops, for the victories, for the Blessings. But thank HIM, too, for the _____. Everyone that GOD greatly uses, must first meet GOD in the Desert, where there is no moisture, little _____, few options. The Desert is a _____ place, a place of midnight darkness. It is a place where GOD deals, _____, fashions and _____ a true Servant of GOD. From the Desert GOD will send that man or woman forth ... with a _____ message of Hope from HIM.
5. Moses was placed strategically in Pharaoh's Family as a baby. For 40 years Moses received _____ of everything. He lived as a prince. But at age 40, GOD said, "This part of your _____ is over. I am driving you to the backside of the Desert." GOD took away his _____, his pleasure, and everything he trusted in. It took another 40 years for GOD strip to Moses of all his _____ and self-reliance. This was where GOD worked the _____ of the Desert into his soul, so Moses could _____ HIS Voice. This is where he became the meekest (most _____) man on earth; the man who would be

_____ in all GOD's House. Num. 12:3, 12:8, Heb, 3:5 Then at age 80 Moses was ready for His encounter with GOD in the _____ ... and to receive his life's mission. Exodus 3

6. IF you want GOD to greatly use you, these things do not qualify you:

- Getting a _____ - Going to _____ or Bible school
- Others laying hands on you for _____ - Being talented, _____
- Being really _____ - Going to the mission field - Being _____

IF you want GOD to really use you, you will have to meet HIM in the Desert. That is where HE will _____ everything you trust in, until HE is all you have left.

7. These Great Servants of the LORD met GOD in the Desert:

- A. "_____, on the Throne of Egypt, where did you learn to govern?"
- B. "_____, where did you get such power in preaching?"
- C. "_____, the Apostle, where are you going after your dramatic conversion?"
- D. "_____, where are you and your 600 men going?"
- E. "_____, where are You going at such a fast pace?"

* Understand that JESUS spent _____ of His brief life in obscurity, while only _____ in ministry. Luke 4:16-21

8. Are you in a desert now? GOD is NOT _____ with you. GOD only allows the choicest of HIS servants to suffer. Suffering is not for the run-of-the-mill Believer. GOD does not grind anything but the _____ ... for HIS Service.

1 Peter 1:6-7 states, "In this you greatly _____, even though now for a little while, if _____, you have been distressed by various trials, that the _____ of your Faith, being more _____ than gold, which is perishable, even though _____ by Fire, may be found to result in praise and _____ and honor at the revelation of JESUS CHRIST."

9. Why do some folks never seem to suffer?

GOD never _____ HIS furnaces of affliction. HE knows that HE cannot put any fires under most people, because they will only _____. If there isn't any _____ in a person's soul, then GOD won't expose them to tribulation. Trials, suffering, and hardship are for the ones who will become Deliverers of Humanity.

10. GOD still hears the _____ of humanity, just like in Moses' day. But often HE doesn't have a man or woman _____ to send. **Isaiah 6:1-8**

HE will not send a _____ until he is prepared.

HE will not send a _____ that HIS Spirit has not striven with.

HE will not use a _____ until they have been to the backside of the Desert.

