

Roads in the Wilderness, Streams in the Desert

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In a genuine wilderness, there are no roads or even well worn paths. This is especially true in the Middle East, where desert sands can shift over night, completely changing the shape and layout of the terrain.

So, how do you navigate across shifting sands, or in sand storms that limit vision to six to twelve inches in front of your face? This is one of the problems that our troops are facing.

One of the solutions is something called a GPS, a “Global Positioning System”. Bouncing a signal off of a satellite, getting bearings from the stars on a clear night, and pursuing a course regardless of what things may look like outside, are the secrets to keeping one’s bearings. A roadway in the desert must be revealed and pursued on a daily basis in order to ensure location when moving.

So it is with our lives. God is our personal global positioning system. As we look to the Lord for guidance and direction, we know where to walk and what to do regardless of the shifting sands of life’s circumstances around us.

But there’s more. Direction is important, but water is vital. In the desert, water is life. There are streams in the desert, but they aren’t readily seen. Water in the desert flows deep under the earth’s crust. At times, it flows up through crevices of rock to form wells or an oasis. Other times, it puddles just below the surface and must be dug. Sometimes, cisterns are dug to catch and collect the water for a time of need.

Just as survival in the desert depends on a constant water supply, our survival in the deserts of life depend on tapping into God’s living water of life. Sometimes God causes the water of life to appear before us suddenly and effortlessly. Sometimes it’s just under the surface of what we can see. Sometimes it’s not so obvious, and we have to dig deeper. But it is there.

The good news is that God knows the way through the wilderness we call life and that He provides streams in our wasteland to provide the water of life we need. He is our guide and He will direct our paths and fill our cups when we turn our personal positioning systems on Him. Isn’t God good?

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19