

## How to Handle Dry Places

### 1. Descriptions of Dry Places

Isaiah 58:11 – And the Lord will continually guide you and satisfy your desire in scorched places.

Psalm 63:1-2, 7-8 – O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory... for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Isaiah 41:17-18 – When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Psalm 42:1-3 - As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

Psalm 69:3 - I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

Psalm 143:6 - I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Let

me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Jeremiah 17:5-6 - Thus says the LORD: cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

### 2. The Lord is Our Source of Water:

Jeremiah 17:7-8 - Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Abide in the Lord, trust in Him; there is no change in your life in the dry places because your source of life is from Him not things. You can walk steadily and firmly based on eternal, unchanging truth every day of your life forever.

Psalm 84:4-7 - Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the high-ways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Isaiah 44:3-4 - For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your off-

spring. They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by flowing streams.

Psalm 107:35 - He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there He lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in.

Isaiah 58:11 - The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

### 3. Promise of His Unchanging Presence

Exodus 33:14 - My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 28:20 - ...And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age. (See Amplified)

John 14:16 - ...He will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you.

Psalm 139:7 – Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

Deuteronomy 31:6, 8 - Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Joshua 1:5 - No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

1 Chronicles 28:20 - Be strong and of good courage, and act. Do not be afraid or dismayed; for the LORD God,

my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you...

Isaiah 41:17 – When the poor and needy seek water and there is none and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

Hebrews 13:5 - ...He has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

To handle the dry places, you walk by faith not by feelings. You need to treat God like His is as He said He is - the same as when you don't feel Him as when you do. His Word and presence are in truth unchangeable. Act like these things are true every day of your life, and you will be able to walk right on through the dry places as if they weren't even there. Practice the presence of God.

### 4. If He Seems Far Away, Who Moved?

Revelation 3:20 – Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you and you with me.

James 4:7-8 – Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (You) draw near to God, and He will draw near to you

2 Chronicles 15:2 - The Lord is with you when you are with Him, and if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you...

Hebrews 10:19-22 - Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us

through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 64:7 – And there is none who calls upon you name, who stirs up himself to take hold of you...

Actually, God has already done His part and brought us into His presence. He has already drawn us near and fully opened the way into His presence and invited us to come in. We are always welcome. So it is up to us to enter what He has done – by faith in Him and His Word.

Romans 5:1 – Access by faith into the grace in which we stand.

## 5. Other mentions of His Presence

### A. Benefits of His Presence:

Psalm 16:11 - You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Fullness of joy, pleasures forevermore, the path of life.

Acts 3:20 - ...so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...

Times of refreshing from His presence.

Psalm 31:20 - In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.

Safety, a place to hide, even from words (o thoughts)

### B. Coming into His Presence:

Psalm 95:2 – Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

Psalm 100:2 – Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.

Hebrews 10:22 – Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith... V. 19 - through the blood of Jesus.

Psalm 4:5 – Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 – Without (apart from) faith it is impossible to please God...

If you want to reach Him and leave with His answers, you must do it His way! If you want to always abide in His presence, you must do it based on the Word.

### C. Seek and Live in His Presence Always:

Psalm 105:4 – Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence forevermore.

Psalm 140:13 – Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall *live* in your presence.

Since He has opened the way into His presence and invited you to come in, you are always welcome there – every day from now for the rest of your life – you

need never, never leave. He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you.

D. You Can't Get Away from His Presence:

Jonah 1:3 - But Jonah set out to flee... from the presence of the LORD.

Psalm 139:7 – Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

Genesis 3:8 – When they sinned, Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of God.

Psalm 51:11 – Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your good spirit from me.

This was under a different covenant. Since He has promised to never leave nor forsake us, since he lives right inside of us, we should never pray like this.

1 John 1:9 – This is God's instant cure for a sense of unrighteousness, for times when you feel guilty and unworthy because of something you have done (or not done). Once you confess a sin it is gone. Train yourself to believe the Word rather than your feelings.

1 Samuel 2:21 - ...and the boy Samuel grew up in the presence.