

# THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES OF A COMFORTABLE LIFE

Deuteronomy 8

## Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- During which season of your life have you found it easiest to remember to pray or to remember to thank and honor God for what he has done for you?
- How do you define providence?

We will all experience seasons in our lives that feel more like Israel's wandering experience in the wilderness or more like their entry into the Promised Land where milk and honey flowed. Moses suggests in his farewell speech that life in the Promised Land may be more challenging for our spiritual life and our faith because in times of abundance and peace it's easy to think we've done it, that we've provided these things for ourselves. What matters is that we remember how God is providing for us in both circumstances and reflect this knowledge in our words and our actions.

## Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why is our life today generally more comparable to the Israelites experience of the Promised Land than to their experience in the desert?
- When have you walked through a time of wilderness in your life? How was God's providence evident in your life during that time?
- Are you currently in the habit of reminding yourself of God's provision? What intentional practices might assist you in this? What does "Remember and do not forget" look like in your life?
- How is God challenging you to be generous with the abilities and resources he has blessed you with?

## Related Passages

- **John 6:25-59**
- **1 Corinthians 4**

## Conclusion

The Psalmist wrote prayers and praise to God both in times of wilderness wandering and times of Promised Land abundance. A consistent theme in the Psalms is remembering God. When thinking about God's provision in your life, look to the book of Psalms for models of how we praise God for his provision and pray for his provision in all seasons of our lives. Read the Psalms slowly and allow the Psalmist's reflections to guide your own reflections on God's hand in your life. If you feel so moved, write your own version or draw pictures of the Psalms you read as they are reflected in your own life.

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