**Being led by the Spirit OUT of the desert**

Most if not all of us have spent time in what seems to be a spiritual wilderness, and at some point we find we have emerged from it. How did that happen? Was there some particular event or action we took or did we just wake up one day and things were different?

**Isaiah 43:17,18; 44:3**

**Conditions in the desert**

1. The desert is a place of peace and fruitfulness:

Jeremiah 17:7, 8

1. It is a time of refreshing: Isaiah 44:3
2. It is a time of empowering: Luke 4:14
3. It is a time to receive fresh direction: 1 Kings 19:15,16

**The journey Out**

1. Forget the past, focus on the future: Isaiah 43:17,19
2. Time to leave: 1 Samuel 22:1-5
3. Lift your vision: Isaiah 60:1
4. Remove the rubbish: Isaiah 62:10
5. Don’t look back!

**Reflection**

The desert is not intended as a place of pain and suffering so:

* Are you anxious about the future?
* If you are, could it be because you are trusting in things apart from God?
* Is your experience that of Psalm 1:2?
* Do you feel powerful?
* Have you experienced the promise of Acts 1:8?
* If not, why do you think that is?
* You may need to spend a little more time in the desert!
* Do you need fresh direction, has life become stale, are you disillusioned?
* Have you told God how you feel?
* Have you waited for his answer or tried to take things into your own hands?
* You may need to spend a little more time in the desert!
* Have you retreated to a cave? If you have it is time to leave!
* Do you spend time thinking about how things were? Then it is time to stop!
* Is your road obscured with rubbish of disappointment, failures, and lost dreams? Then get out the shovel and clear it away!
* Lift up your eyes, take the first step in faith, and keep going!