

Desert-Strength Character

New Year's Transformation, part 7

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order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Exodus 14:31 (NIV)

The desert's character lessons

1. Spiritual character is tested in life's deserts

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands.

Deuteronomy 8:2

2. Spiritual character is forged in life's deserts

So obey the commands of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and fearing him.

Deuteronomy 8:6

For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 8:12-14

He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in