

you can't go forward, you can't go back ...

God seems absent, angry or apathetic ...

so ... what do you do IN THE MEANTIME?

# DESERT SONG



I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

philippians 4 verses 12-13

...I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THIS CURRENT SERIES:

### WEEK - 2: A GIFT WITH PURPOSE AND PROMISE

Ever talked to someone who is in a "Desert Season" of life? They're stuck in unwanted and unalterable circumstances and yet they've gotten to the place where they're able to receive their circumstances, afflictions, losses, and their journey as filtered through the hand of their heavenly Father? Wow! How do these people maintain their faith and keep going despite extraordinarily difficult circumstances?

The apostle Paul had a "thorn" that he repeatedly asked God to take away - yet God chose not to. Paul shows us the foundation for life in the desert - and that's the promise of the power of God and His sustaining grace.

#### THINK ABOUT THESE ...

1. Why do you think people assume that faith in God will remove adversity from life? Have you ever made that assumption?  
If so, how did it influence your relationship with God?
2. Think about a time when you or someone you knew faced difficult circumstances and God was silent. How did that experience affect your faith in the short term? How did it affect your faith in the long term?
3. Is it difficult for you to accept that challenging circumstances can come from the hand of a loving God? Why or why not?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.** What would it look like for you to "delight in weakness" for the sake of Jesus? How would it change the way you respond to adversity?
5. Do you feel permission to plead with God to take away your difficult circumstances? Do you believe He responds to that kind of prayer? Why or why not?

you can't go forward, you can't go back ...

God seems absent, angry or apathetic ...

so ... what do you do IN THE MEANTIME?

# DESERT SONG



I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

philippians 4 verses 12-13

...I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THIS CURRENT SERIES:

6. What is the “thorn in your side,” the ongoing struggle or challenge that you can’t change and that you need to accept God’s grace in order to move forward?

What can you do to begin to view that “thorn” as a gift that comes with a purpose and a promise from your heavenly Father? How can we as a church support you?

### THINKING REVOLUTIONARY ...

If you believe God can change your circumstances but chooses not to, you have the option to receive those circumstances from him as a gift with a purpose and a promise: sustaining grace. If that sounds odd, remember your salvation and the salvation of the world, hung in the balance of a similar decision made by your Savior the night before his crucifixion.

### READ AND THINK ABOUT THESE WORDS (MEMORIZE THEM IF YOU CAN!):

*“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me;  
yet not my will, but yours be done.”*

Luke 22 verse 42