
SOUL RESTORATION.

1. *The Wilderness is Suggestive of Barrenness.*

The Arabian desert is a fitting type of the surroundings of that soul which has been led away from its vanities into a conscious sense of the divine nearness and purity. The best men that have ever lived have shrivelled up in the all-radiant presence of the Holy One. "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" is the unconscious utterance of the man who sees himself in the light of God. Pride and vanity give place to self-abasement. A sense of affluence to an experience of extremest poverty. The wilderness ever stands between guilt and holiness. You cannot become estranged from God in affection and be restored to the enjoyment of His favor without being brought out into the wilderness. God brings you into its desolation that you may appreciate His love. He makes you to realize your poverty and guilt, that you may be prepared to rejoice in His wealth and forgiveness.

2. *The Wilderness is Suggestive of Solitude.*

There is no scene more isolated from the busy life of the world. Through all its wide wastes there reigns the stillness of the grave. No singing bird is there. No flocks or herds seek pasturage on its barren mounds. It is remote from every sound of jubilant existence. And it is to such a scene the Lord leads out His own. "I will allure her into the wilderness." Solitude is necessary to repentance. You may be jostled by the busy, bustling throng. Human beings