

Hungry and Thirsty **Exodus 16,17**

Why does God allow trials in the journey from salvation to sanctification?

God providentially and sovereignly allows his people to experience physical and spiritual hardship (need) in order to...

- I. Reveal the inadequate foundation of our worldly human civilization: the volatile nature of our unsatisfied fleshly desires.**
 - a. Hunger and thirst: Our most foundational needs (Col. 3:1-4)
 - b. How long would it take for civilization to collapse? Grumbling, quarreling (test vs. temptation) 16:3-4, 17:1-3, 7, James 4:1-7, 1 Peter 1:1-9.

- II. Recalibrate our hearts to establish a new culture based on total reliance on his faithful promises and provisions.**
 - a. New rhythms for a new life: our ways vs. God's way (reclaiming creation- the material world and time) 16:4-7, 16-30, 17:5-6.
 - b. The recalibrating factor: Vertically aligned with God's will Deut. 8.

Feast on God's Word **to overcome the appetites of the flesh** **and the false promises of this world.**

1. Look at James 4:1-7 again, interpersonal conflict is often the result of unmet expectations and needs. What will it take for your relationships to crumble under the weight of anger and frustration? Will you stay faithful even if you feel unsatisfied or will you "return to Egypt" to meet your needs?
2. What "spiritual comfort" foods do you run to when the journey gets tough? Are these things drawing you closer to God or away from him?
3. Are you currently in a season of trials? What does God's word say specifically about your struggle? Are you willing to be a doer of the word and not just a listener?