

Victory Is Coming!

Encouragement for Battle-Wearied Christians

Chapter Two



Deuteronomy 8

Has pride sauntered up to tempt you? God's bountiful provision becomes a feat *you* accomplished. Hard work, brains, and ambition equipped you to have everything. After all, you earned that diploma and paycheck. Leaving God out of the equation is easy when you perch on the mountain and view the valley. Be careful not to topple off the heights.

Pride leaves no room for God. You might be tempted to think, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me" (Deuteronomy 8:17). This conceit may be more deadly than an armed enemy charging at you. At least with an attacker, you see the danger for what it is. Pride creeps in by degrees until you are blinded by the cataract of self. If you are entranced gazing in the mirror, there's not much room to see God.

For reflection

Moses advised, "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant" (Deuteronomy 8:18).

Think about your interactions with God. Do you only go to him when you want something? Enjoy the good times. Celebrate seeing dreams fulfilled. But never forget who gave you the vision or ability to accomplish goals.

Calibrate your expectations about prestige beyond what you might be able to "get" from God. Are you aspiring to create your own kingdom at the expense of His?