

# FLYING BLIND

## The Reason for Loss

### Discussion

When a believer experiences a loss—someone loved, a job, possessions, lifestyle, plans or hopes—is God always responsible for this, or is someone/something else the cause?

**Encounter** - Read God's Word so that He can speak to you - **Deuteronomy 8:1-10**

**Explore** - God's Word by asking questions of what you saw.

1)

**(Verses 1).** For Israel, a major goal/promise of obedience was physical life and prosperity in the land. According to Scripture, what is our goal/promise for obedience?

- Does our promise for obedience include anything about this life and its needs? If so, what? (Example, see Matthew 6:11, 25-34; Ephesians 6:1-2)
- If you find yourself lacking any of these things, what does that mean? Does it say anything about God/ about you?

2) (Verses 2-5). Remember how God has led you in your life so far. What has He given you?

- What has He taken from you? How severe was it? How did you respond?

3) Why did God take good things from you? What was His reason?

- For the reasons God gives, what do these mean:

(1)“To humble you” – what does that look like? How do you know if humility is learned? Why do you need this?

(2)“To test what is in your heart” - what does that look like? How do you know when something has been revealed from your heart? Why do you need this?

(3)“To teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” - what does that look like? How do you know if you have learned this? Why do you need this?

4)

“Bread” feeds the body, but God’s Word sustains life. What does this mean?

- How do these passages fit into your explanation?

❖ Matthew 4:3-4

❖ John 4:31-34

- How does the way you live each week show what is your source of life? Is it physical food or God’s Word/will? How do you know this?

5)

What does it mean that God disciplines you as a Father? (See also, Proverbs 3:11-12)

6)

Tests that refine use severe heat to remove the dross—the stuff that doesn’t belong. Notice how—for Israel—a whole generation was removed as dross and the only things that lasted were clothes, shoes, and manna. What does this say about people and God’s provisions?

7)

**(Verses 6-10).** The lessons learned from the tests of the wilderness were to be taken into the good land ahead.  
What have you learned from the loss God brought into your past?

- How are you taking those lessons into the days ahead of you?

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**EMBRACE** – Make God's thoughts part of your thoughts

Memorize Matthew 5:7-9