

## Overcoming Wilderness Journey: The Road You Choose Will Determine Your Destiny

**Earle Fulford**

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*The self-help book Overcoming Wilderness Journey suggests ways to live a life that's committed to God.*

*Overcoming Wilderness Journey* is Earle Fulford's impassioned, cautionary, and advice-filled spiritual guide to overcoming worldly influences.

The book begins with useful definitions of its organizing terms (here, "wilderness" is the world people live in, and includes governments, culture, and social systems). From these concepts are drawn compelling lessons, including on how past experiences should be regarded as fodder for the future, on how it is wrong to conform to the world's value system, and on why defining one's life goals in clear terms is significant.

The book's topics include knowing and dealing with deception and temptation, focusing on personal missions, and relying on God as a guide; each topic is addressed in terms at once specific to it, and that relate back to the overarching topic. Issues that are relevant today, including racism and materialism, are treated via considerations of biblical teachings about showing kindness to the poor and respecting and appreciating all people.

Easy-to-grasp real-life scenarios are used to illustrate the book's spiritual principles, including that life is a journey whose determinative points have to be considered with care and navigated well, and that hard times are spiritual deserts wherein leaning on the guidance of the Holy Spirit is necessary. Fulford's own story is among these examples: he reveals that, when he was a teenager, he witnessed adults abusing drugs and alcohol, gambling, smoking, and playing pool during his walks to school. He asserts that he had no one to guide him, and was plagued by feelings of rejection that led him to imitate the actions of his seniors. But life-changing scholarship helped him to pursue a career in social work, affecting how he interacted with challenges at home.

Everyday language facilitates understanding the book's arguments, as with what it means to be born of the spirit—here, a process of commitment to living according to God's plan for one's life. For further reading, the book makes plentiful references to biblical works; biblical verses are also used internally to support the book's arguments, as when Job becomes a means to explain that delays are often a test, used to strengthen a person's faith and trust in God. But the book's grammatical mistakes, which include incorrect word choices, missing articles, and agreement errors, impede its messages.

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EDITH WAIRIMU (March 11, 2021)

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