

Psalm 27:4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may **dwell** in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to **gaze** upon the beauty of the LORD and to **seek** him in his temple.

Seek, dwell, and gaze your way through the wilderness

Why does God seem to work this way?



What does that mean?



Isaiah 35:1

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution he will come to save
you."

Then **will the eyes of the blind be opened**
and the **ears of the deaf unstopped**.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the **mute tongue shout for joy**.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness and
streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and **papyrus will grow**.
And a highway will be there;

it will be called the Way of Holiness.

The unclean will not journey on it;
it will be for those who walk in that Way;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

No lion will be there,
nor will any ferocious beast get up on it;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
and the ransomed of the LORD will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



Feel

Better



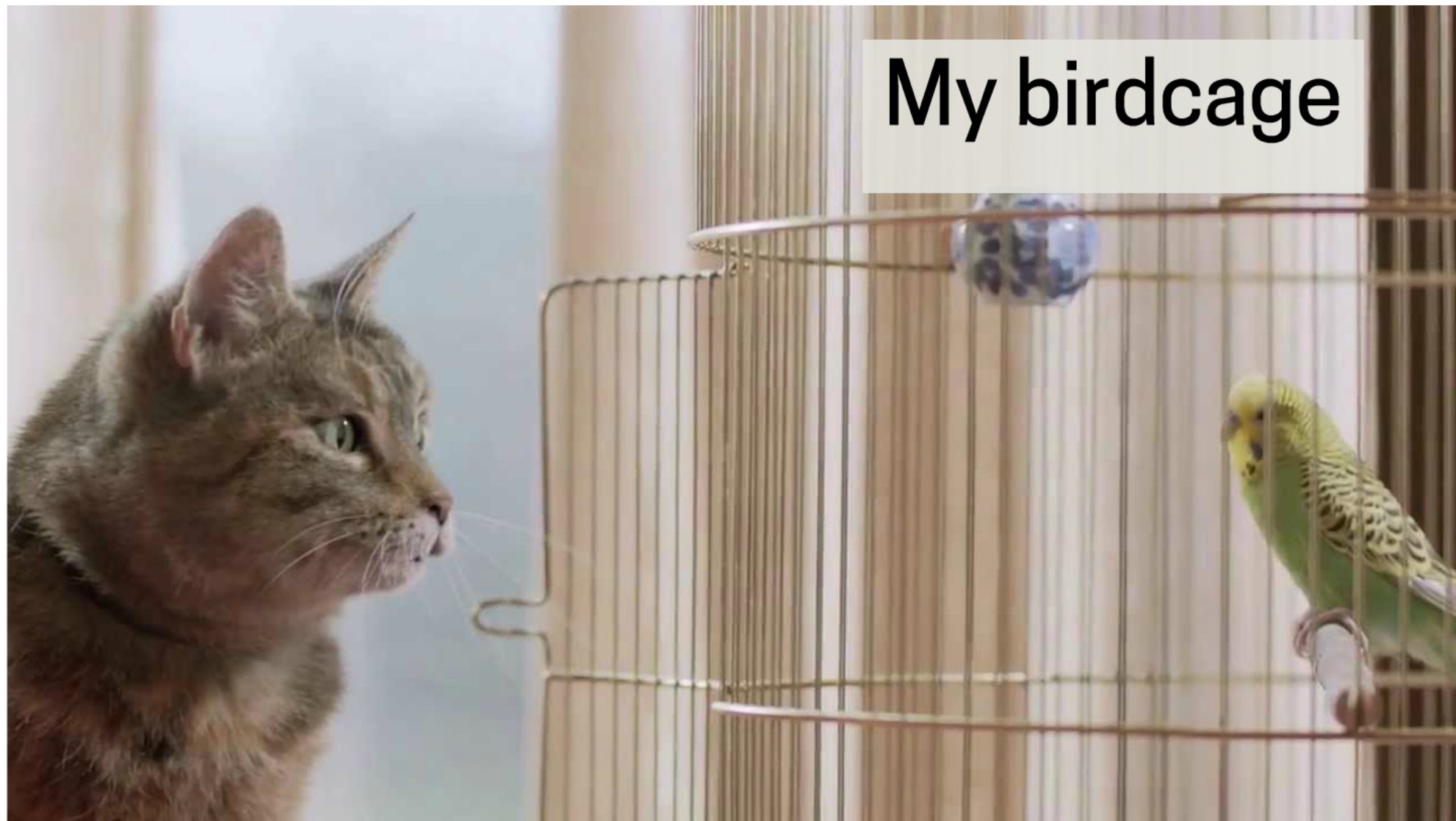
When I Feel Forgotten

Psalm 27

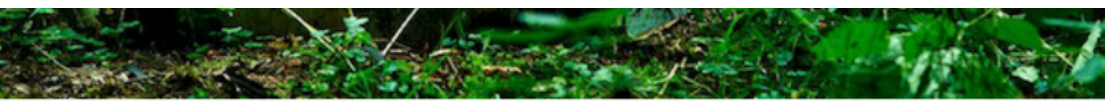
Feel Better







My birdcage



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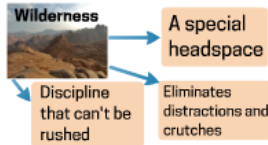
What doe

2. Faith in the wilder
and waiting for him

Why does God seem to work this way?



Wilderness...
Jesus fasted in the (Judean) Wilderness for 40 years (40 years)
Daniel spent his teenage years out there
John the Baptist preached there
Jesus started his ministry with 40 days in the "wilderness" (Jesus' "40 days" campaign)



Psalms 106 and what the wilderness reveals



1. God uses the wilderness because he requires forged and tempered characters.

(...and we won't learn any other way)



Wilderness...

Israelites in the Exodus

Moses for 40 years

(when he was 40)

David spent his teenage

years out there

John the Baptist preached

there

(Jesus starts his ministry

with 40 days in the

"wilderness")



(Shepherd was a wilderness profession)

(Hence "40 days" campaigns)



Wilderness

A special
headspace

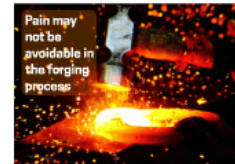
Discipline
that can't be
rushed

Eliminates
distractions and
crutches



Luke 5:16
You can seek out the
wilderness

Psalms
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and
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Pain may
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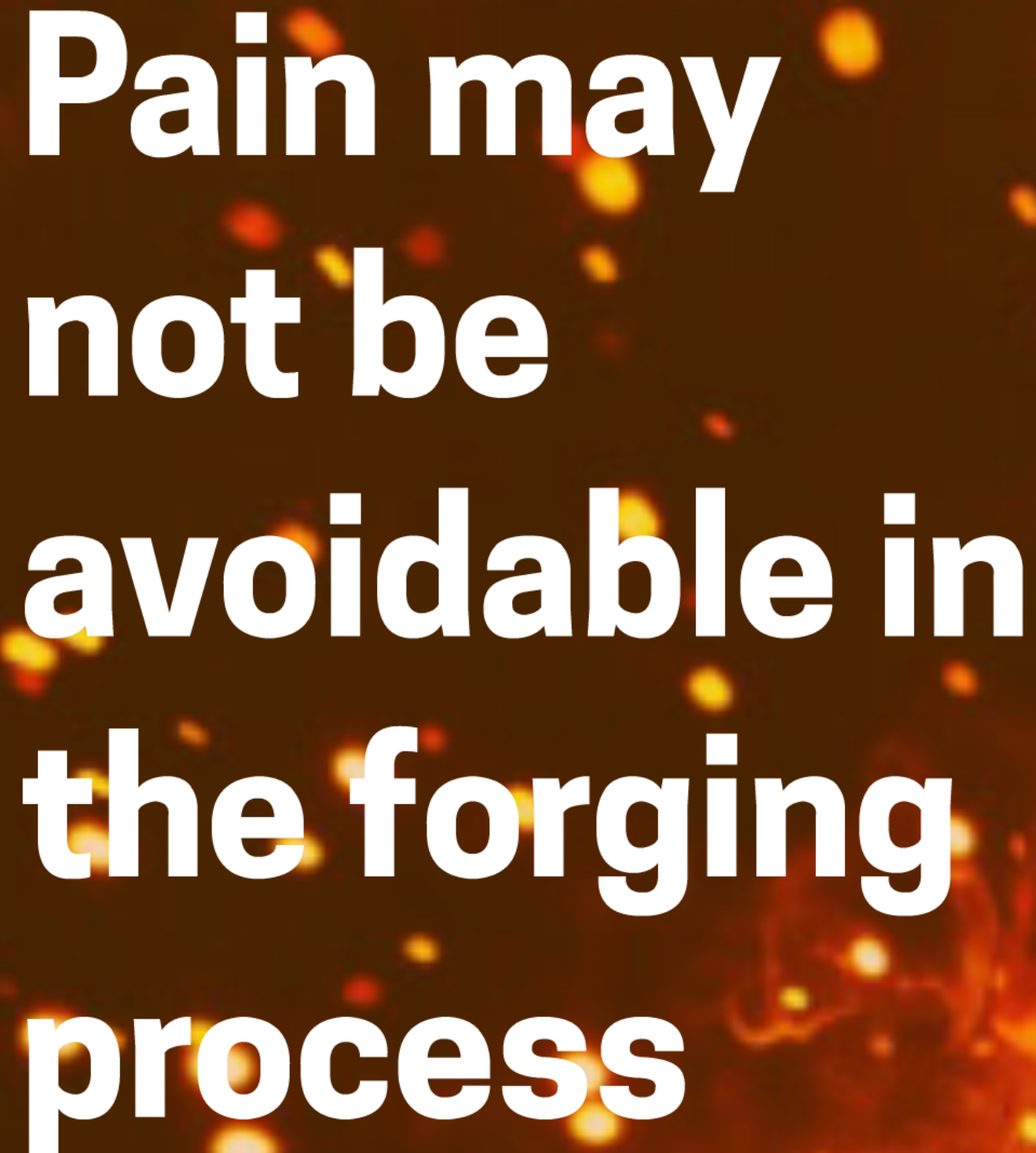


Psalm
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**Pain may
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The background of the slide is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of a forging process. On the right side, a portion of a metal hammer is visible, its head and handle appearing dark and metallic. The central and lower portions of the image are dominated by a bright, intense orange and yellow glow, representing molten metal or the point of impact. Numerous bright, glowing sparks are scattered throughout the scene, particularly concentrated around the central heat source, creating a sense of intense heat and activity. The overall color palette is dominated by the warm tones of fire and metal.

**Pain may
not be
avoidable in
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What does that mean?

2. Faith in the wilderness is seeking God's face and waiting for him

Psalm 27:7-9

Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Actions:

1. Seek his face
2. To...find the straight path ("your way" vs 11)
3. Wait for the Lord

Psalm 27:13-14

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Division of Labor

(normal reversal of pride and fear)

Normal human behavior:

1. **God:** Show himself

2. **Me:** Save myself, get success

Psalm 27 (& whole Bible):

1. **God:** Save and deliver

2. **Me:** Seek his face

Seeking God means...

...dwelling in and gazing on what God has shown about himself in a way that clarifies and motivates faith.

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Psalm 27:6
Hear my voice when I call, Lord, for my soul is in distress.
Do not turn away from me when I call, for I am in trouble.
Do not turn away from me when I call, for I am in trouble.
Do not turn away from me when I call, for I am in trouble.

Actions: 1. Seek His face
2. To God the one who is faithful to His promises
3. Wait for the Lord

Psalm 27:6-8
I will not be afraid when I face the wrath of the LORD, for I have trusted in His mercy.
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Division of Labor
(between the human and the divine)

Human labor:
1. Seek His face
2. Wait for the Lord

Divine labor:
1. Seek His face and deliver
2. Wait for the Lord

Seeking God's face:
A person who seeks God's face will not be ashamed when he is tested, for he will look to the LORD and be rescued.