

# The Hermit Crab

by David Wilkerson

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*The sermon teaches that believers should not give up the struggle, but rather fight on and grow stronger in the face of difficulties, finding true refuge in Jesus.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 55:4

**Topics:** "Endurance in Faith", "Spiritual Growth"

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## Description

David Wilkerson reflects on King David's weariness and desire for peace amidst struggles, paralleling it with the life of hermit crabs that abandon their fight for survival. He emphasizes that while some crabs seek safety in discarded shells, they ultimately lose their strength and vitality, illustrating the spiritual truth that believers must engage in their struggles to grow stronger in faith. Just as crabs that continue to fight develop resilience, Christians who face their challenges with trust in Jesus find true refuge and strength. Wilkerson encourages believers to embrace their battles rather than retreating into false safety, as true growth comes from enduring hardships.

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## Transcript

King David, the author of so many Psalms, grew weary of his struggles. He was so tired in soul, so embattled and beset by troubles, all he wanted was to escape to a place of peace and safety: "My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.... And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest.... I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest" (Psalm 55:4-8).

A lesson from nature reveals what happens when we trade the good fight for an easier way and walk away from our struggle. I recently read a biologist's study on crabs, creatures that live in a rough, dangerous environment among jagged rocks. Crabs are dashed about daily by waves and attacked on every side by creatures from deeper waters. They battle continually to protect themselves, and over time they develop a strong shell and powerful instincts for survival.

Amazingly, some in the crab family give up the struggle for life. Searching for a safe haven, they take up residence in the cast-off shells of other ocean creature. These crabs are known as hermit crabs. Settling for safety, they retreat from the battle and escape into secondhand houses that are ready-made.

But hermit crabs' "safe houses" prove to be costly and ruinous. Through their lack of struggle, crucial parts of their bodies deteriorate. Even their organs wither due to lack of use. Over time the hermit crab loses all

power of motion, as well as vital parts needed for escape. These limbs simply fall off, leaving the crab out of danger but useless to do anything except exist.

Meanwhile, crabs that continued the struggle grow and flourish. Their five pairs of legs become meaty and strong from resisting the powerful tides. And they learn to hide from their predators by skillfully scuttling under rock formations.

This law of nature, too, illustrates the law of the Spirit. As believers, we get tossed and pounded by wave after wave of difficulties. We face vicious predators in Satan's principalities and powers. But as we fight on, we grow stronger. And we come to recognize the devil's wiles when he employs them against us. We discover our true refuge, the "cleft in the rock," by trusting in Jesus. Only then are we truly safe in the midst of our battle.

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