

Psalm 119:65-80

Open It:

1. What are some valuable lessons you have learned in your life by going through difficult times? Are these lessons you might not have learned in good times?

James Montgomery Boice writes, "Affliction is not the most frequently mentioned matter... The most prominent word in these verses [v. 65-72] is good..." Even in the bad, there is good.

Explore It:

Read Psalm 119:65-72 *Teth*

2. Note all the times the psalmist uses the word "good" in these 8 verses. What does good mean?
3. How does God teach us knowledge and good judgment?
4. How do we know that God is good (v. 65, 68)?
5. What does it mean when we say, "God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good?"
6. Why is it good for us to be afflicted (v. 71)?

7. How does affliction help us to trust and obey God's Word (v. 66-67)?

8. How is God's Word a treasure, especially during times of affliction (v. 72)?

Read Psalm 119:73-80 *Yodh*

9. God is good and He is our Creator. What is the significance of the fact God is our Creator? How does His being Creator impact times of affliction?

10. Twice this psalmist mentions "those who fear you." The psalmist isn't just thinking of himself during his difficult times, but also thinking about others. How can the way I respond to afflictions impact others?

11. What is the psalmist able to declare with certainty despite the affliction he was enduring?

12. What does he desire of those who are the source of his affliction?

13. How is he choosing to respond to the affliction?

Apply It:

14. How is it possible that things that don't necessarily feel good, actually be good?

15. How can I be a blessing to others in my affliction?

16. What would look different about your response to suffering if you were able to fix yourself carefully on the truth that God is good to you during it?

Homework:

Sometimes we have to experience the painful consequences of bad choices in order to better understand the joy that comes with living according to God's Word. Like a child who gets burned by touching a hot stove after repeated warnings from a parent, we too, sometimes have to experience the hurt that comes from going astray (v. 67). But even though it make time, once we learn the lesson we can often look back on the experience and say it was good.

Read Hebrews 12:5-11 to learn about the purpose of God's discipline.

Whatever hardship you are facing today, read James 1:2-8 about what our response should be the hard times.

"God isn't good only when we're happy or when our prayers are answered. God is good. God is the ultimate in goodness no matter our situation or current state of mind, even if the beginning, middle or end of our life or situation feels bad. God's goodness means that he has the power to bring beauty from the ashes and ugly from the awful. The fact that God is the definition of goodness is the reason we can have hope, peace, and joy in hard circumstances."

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