

STUDY GUIDE

Affliction's Blessing: Finding God's Goodness in Trials

Psalm 119:65–72

Sunday Morning Worship – November 23

1. Opening Summary

Psalm 119:65–72 teaches that God is good, God does good, and even affliction—though painful—is used by Him to grow, mature, and restore His people. In this stanza, the psalmist reflects on God's unfailing goodness, seeks wisdom in trials, acknowledges past wandering, and declares the superiority of God's Word over all earthly riches.

This passage calls believers to trust in God's character, submit to His Word, and embrace affliction as a means of grace.

2. Context & Key Themes

A. God's Goodness in Past & Present (v. 65)

- The psalmist affirms: "You have dealt well with your servant."
- Even after trials, he sees God's faithfulness.
- Like Job, he trusts God even when he does not understand why suffering comes.

B. Wisdom in Affliction (v. 66)

- He prays for *good judgment and knowledge*.
- True wisdom comes from believing and obeying God's Word.
- Affliction exposes our natural impulse to retaliate, but Scripture directs us to trust God with justice (Rom. 12:17–19).

C. Affliction as Correction (v. 67)

- Before suffering, the psalmist "went astray."

- Discipline reveals God's love (Hebrews 12:6).
- God uses hardship to bring wandering hearts back into obedience.

D. God's Character: "You are Good and Do Good" (v. 68)

- God's goodness is essential to His nature.
- He displays goodness through creation, redemption, and patient mercy.
- The psalmist prays again to be taught God's statutes.

E. Handling Slander & Opposition (vv. 69–70)

- The proud "forge lies," but the psalmist remains steadfast in obedience.
- Hearts described as "fat as grease" picture spiritual dullness.
- Believers endure hostility by delighting in God's law.

F. The Gift Hidden in Affliction (v. 71)

- "It is good for me that I was afflicted."
- Trials push believers to prayer, repentance, and deeper obedience.
- God often uses affliction to press truth into our hearts.

G. The Supreme Value of Scripture (v. 72)

- The law is worth more than "thousands of gold and silver."
- Earthly wealth fades; God's Word endures forever.
- In glory, even streets of gold are nothing compared to Christ Himself.

3. Key Doctrines & Biblical Principles

The Nature of God

- God is inherently good (Exodus 34:6).
- His works display His goodness—even when His purposes are hidden.

The Purpose of Affliction

Affliction:

1. **Reminds us life is temporary** (2 Cor. 4:16–18)
2. **Works God’s good purposes** (Rom. 8:28)
3. **Equips us for ministry to others** (2 Cor. 1:3–5)
4. **Conforms us to Christ** (1 Peter 2:20–23)

The Sufficiency of Scripture

- Scripture teaches, corrects, trains, and equips (2 Tim. 3:16–17).
- Obedience is an expression of love (John 14:15).
- God’s Word is more valuable than any wealth.

The Call to Repentance & Humility

- Healing—personal and national—begins with turning back to God (2 Chr. 7:13–15).
- True wisdom begins in repentance.

4. Reflection & Discussion Questions

A. About God’s Character

1. How does remembering God’s past faithfulness shape your response to current trials?
2. What does this passage teach us about the goodness of God—even in affliction?

B. About Personal Walk & Obedience

3. Can you identify a time when God used hardship to bring you back to obedience?
4. In what areas do you need to ask God for “good judgment and knowledge”?

5. Are you tempted to repay evil for evil? How does Romans 12 challenge that response?

C. About Affliction

6. Which of the four biblical purposes of suffering do you see most clearly in your present circumstances?
7. How might God be drawing you closer to Him through trials today?

D. About Scripture

8. Do you treasure God's Word more than earthly security?
9. What practices help you delight in the law of the Lord?
10. How does affliction often make Scripture more precious to you?

5. Application Steps

This Week—Practice This:

- **Meditate on Psalm 119:65–72** once each day.
- **Journal** one way God has “dealt well” with you.
- **Pray** for wisdom (v. 66) before responding to conflict or pressure.
- **Release** any desire for revenge—entrust it to God.
- **Reflect** on how God may be using discomfort or difficulty to grow your faith.
- **Engage** in Scripture memorization: Psalm 119:68, 71, or 72.

6. Memory Verse

Psalm 119:71

“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”

7. Closing Encouragement

Affliction is not merely something to endure—it is something God uses to bless. Like the psalmist, believers can say, “*You have dealt well with Your servant,*” even when walking through trial. God’s goodness is the anchor, His Word is the guide, and His purposes are always for our hope and holiness.