

How to Respond to Trials and Afflictions? Psalm 119:73-80

Introduction

Trials will either strengthen our faith and draw us to Christ, or weaken our faith and take us from Christ.

So it's crucial that we learn how to respond to trials, which is the point of vv.73-80.

In vv.65-72 the author showed us how God is good even though he brings us afflictions.

It's because the afflictions will either bring us BACK TO the Word, or they will teach us MORE OF the Word.

And in light of that, this next section teaches us how to respond to afflictions —

First, ask God to give you understanding so you can learn his Word. (v.73)

Second, affirm to God that he will give you such hope that other believers will be encouraged. (v.74)

Third, strengthen your faith by speaking to God the truth of his Word. (v.75)

Fourth, ask God for experiential comfort in his presence. (vv.76-77)

Fifth, ask God to stop the affliction and bring justice. (v.78)

Sixth, ask God to impact others through your hope. (v.79)

Seventh, pray that you will be blameless through your afflictions. (v.80)



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What afflictions are you going through right now?

Is this a case of God using afflictions to bring you BACK TO God's Word? Or of God using afflictions to teach you MORE OF God's Word?

Which of these seven responses is coming the easiest to you? Why? What is God doing in your heart as you respond in this way?

Which of these seven responses is the most difficult for you? Why? What are you missing as a result of not doing this?

What do we learn about God from the fact that he calls us to have these seven responses to afflictions?

Pray for those who are going through afflictions, asking for God to pour his comfort and grace and strength and hope upon them.

