



The Wonder Of God's Word
Psalms 119

God's Word In Affliction
Verses 65-72

This stanza opens with **praise** and **thanksgiving** for God's merciful, wise, and faithful providence in the life of the *Psalmist*-**"Thou hast dealt well** (correctly, properly, kindly, and generously) **with thy servant"** THIS SPEAKS OF THE MERCY, WISDOM, GOODNESS, AND LOVE OF GOD IN DEALING WITH HIS PEOPLE! He stated in **verse 68** **"Thou art good, (right and excellent) and doest good"** (that which is right, useful, and beneficial). However God deals with His people, it is always better than they deserve, and all in love, and for their good. Notice, God's providence (what He sends and allows in the lives of His people) is never contrary to His Word-**"according unto thy word"** THIS SPEAKS OF THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD!

These two statements concerning God's providence [**verses 65, 68**] are made in the context of **affliction** [**verses 67, 69, 71**]. This **affliction** referred to was the mocking, derision, persecution, and hardships that he suffered at the hands of his enemies because of his faith [**verses 78, 83, 95, 110, 121, 134, 141, 143, 150, 157, 161**]. He states concerning these **afflictions** that they were good for him, because they were used to **rescue him from a life of waywardness**-**"Before I was afflicted I went astray"** [**verse 67**]. He also stated that these **afflictions** were good for him because **they enabled him to learn more of God's Word**-**"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes"** [**verse 71**]. It is in this stanza that we see the attitude of the *Psalmist* toward the Word of God in the midst of his trials:

1. HE DESIRED TO BE TAUGHT AND TO LEARN THE WORD OF GOD:

In **verse 66** he prayed to be taught two things-**"Teach me good judgment** (discernment, perception, and reasoning in accord with God's Word), **and knowledge"** (understanding). This request is in the context of **"thy word"** [**verse 65**], and **"thy commandments"** [**verse 66**]. THE PRAYER OF THE PSALMIST WAS THAT HIS JUDGMENT AND KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH GOD'S WORD! In **verse 68** he prayed **"teach me** (educate, instruct, enlighten, and instill in me) **thy statutes"** In **verse 71** he spoke of **learning** God's Word in the time of affliction. To **"learn"** is to **grasp**, to **take in**, to **absorb**. IN THE HOUR OF AFFLICTION THE PSALMIST DESIRED TO LEARN THE WORD OF GOD!

2. HE BELIEVED THE WORD OF GOD:

He states in **verse 66** **"for I have believed thy commandments"** To **"believe"** the Word of God is to **accept** and to **regard** it as true. It is **trust**, **confidence**, and **assurance** based

upon the Word of God. IN THE HOUR OF AFFLICTION THE PSALMIST BELIEVED THE WORD OF GOD!

3. HE DESIRED TO OBEY THE WORD OF GOD:

He states the **importance** of such in **verse 67** *“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word”* He states his **desire** and **intent** to obey the Word of God, in spite of what others do- *“but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart”* [verse 69]. IN THE HOUR OF AFFLICTION THE PSALMIST DESIRED AND WAS INTENT ON OBEYING GOD’S WORD!

4. HE DELIGHTED IN GOD’S WORD:

He states in **verse 70** *“I delight in thy law”* He was **captivated** by the Word of God, and it brought him **pleasure, happiness, and joy!** IN THE HOUR OF AFFLICTION THE WORD OF GOD WAS HIS JOY!

5. HE CONSIDERED THE WORD OF GOD TO BE VALUABLE:

This he states in **verse 72**. To him the Word of God was more **useful, helpful, beneficial,** and **advantageous** than great amounts of *“gold and silver”* IN THE HOUR OF AFFLICTION HE FOUND THAT THE WORD OF GOD WAS PRECIOUS!

It is of extreme importance for the spiritual well-being of God’s people, **that they do not lose sight of God’s Word** in the hour of trial! God’s people must not allow the trials, the troubles, the circumstances, and the behavior of others draw them away from the Word of God! GOD’S WORD SERVES AS AN ANCHOR IN THE STORM!
