

“THE LORD’S GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS”
PSALM 119:65-80 (STANZAS 9-10)

Because God is good to us, even in affliction, let us study to share His good ways.

9. Teth: Learning the goodness of God in the school of affliction (vv. 65-72). In this ninth stanza, the psalmist focuses on having learned the goodness of God (he uses the term “good” five times in only eight verses), but in one of the most unexpected contexts – affliction. First, verses 65-68 show us that we best learn the goodness of God in affliction because it drives us from the distracting path of ease to being pushed toward the shelter of God’s goodness. In verses 69-72, as affliction draws us to God it causes us to enroll as students who learn the preciousness of God’s Word (vv. 71-72). As we look to live out this passage, let us remember to see affliction as a loving path God uses to draw us toward His goodness.

10. Yodh: Testifying to the faithfulness of God out of affliction (vv. 73-80). In this tenth stanza, the psalmist moves from studying God’s goodness in affliction to testifying to it in gospel community. First, verses 73-76 celebrate God as Creator and the good gift of fellowship that He gives amid affliction. Then, verses 77-80 teach us that gospel community is formed as we meditate on God’s Word and prayerfully share it with one another (v. 78-79; Col. 3:16). This stanza, more than any thus far, stresses the gift and need of gospel community and keeps us from thinking the psalmist lives individualistically. As we look to live out this passage, let us remember that community is not a spiritual option for some but a necessary gift for all.

APPLYING THE WORD

Affliction is the school where we learn the goodness of God (vv. 65-68)

- What is your natural response to affliction and how do these verses help us respond to it?
- Like the psalmist, what can affliction teach us about God that a life of ease cannot (v. 67)?

Affliction is the school where we study the goodness of God’s Word (vv. 69-72)

- Personally, how has affliction enabled you to learn the goodness of God’s Word (vv. 67-68)?

Fellowship is needed comfort in the midst of affliction (vv. 73-76)

- How does knowing God created you to know His ways shape your delight in His Word (v. 73)?
- In what ways have other believers been a needed comfort in your times of affliction (v. 74)?

Fellowship is fostered as we share the Word of God together (vv. 77-80)

- How can God’s faithfulness in our suffering strengthen the hearts of other believers (v. 79)?

WALKING IN THE WORD THIS WEEK

9. Teth (vv. 65-72)

Prayer	Lord, help me to remember that testing is a good tool for maturing (Jm. 1:2-4).
Practice	Prayerfully journal through the good you have learned through affliction.

10. Yodh (vv. 73-80)

Prayer	Lord, give me friendships built on a deep love for your Word (Acts 2:42).
Practice	Share what God is teaching you through His Word with others this week.