

# It Is Good to Be Afflicted

## Psalm 119:71-76

### Psalm 119:71-76 (NASB)

<sup>71</sup> “It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

<sup>72</sup> The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver *pieces*.

<sup>73</sup> Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

<sup>74</sup> May those who fear You see me and be glad, Because I wait for Your word.

<sup>75</sup> I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

<sup>76</sup> O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.”

The psalmist rejoiced in affliction because trials added to his knowledge of God. Lessons in the Lord’s constancy, grace, and provision were more valuable to him than a sack full of gold and silver. Hardship also enriched his heart and spirit.

Affliction acts as spiritual fertilizer on a believer’s faith. Consider how David’s radical pursuit of the Lord developed while he was running from a murderous king. The years between his victory over Goliath and his ascension to the throne were physically demanding and emotionally draining. Yet the challenges that David faced molded him into a wise leader, a cunning warrior, and a humble servant of the Lord.

Psalms 4 and 13 reveals that David’s struggles taught him dependence on God, perseverance, and many other valuable spiritual traits. The Lord also provided comfort even as He stretched the warrior-poet’s faith (Psalm 86:17). As God intended, David’s words continue to offer solace to others who must walk through trials and misery.

### Psalm 86:17 (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> “Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see *it* and be ashamed, Because You, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.”

By means of affliction, God molds His children into comfort carriers. (See 2 Corinthians 1:4.)

### 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> “Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

The message we share with others is the one we learned in our own trials: *God is enough. He’s sufficient to meet our needs when the pit is deep, the obstacle high, and the suffering prolonged.* Moreover, our own lives prove that no matter the circumstance, God is faithful.

Those whom God leads to triumph over affliction become the fragrance of His care to a hurting world (2 Corinthians 2:14 NASB). “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” We carry cheer to the discouraged, relief to the hurting, and the message of Christ’s love to all.