

Walking in the Word

Title: The Path of Affliction and Goodness

Date: September 6, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 119:65-72

Speaker: Darrin Wright

Main Idea

God's goodness and our affliction are not incompatible. In His sovereign goodness, God uses affliction to turn His people from wandering, teach them wisdom, reshape their priorities, and deepen their love for His Word.

Sermon in Brief

The psalmist begins his reflection on suffering with praise: "You have dealt well with your servant." His affliction has not convinced him that God is unfaithful; it has taught him how much he needs his Shepherd. Before he was afflicted, he wandered, but through affliction God drew him back to obedience and Scripture. Even when others smeared him with lies, he resolved to keep and delight in God's Word. Looking back, he could say that his affliction was good because it taught him to treasure God's Word above the wealth of the world.

Main Points:

1. **The Praise of the Afflicted - 119:65** - He does not say that God dealt well with him only before life became difficult. Even as he prepares to describe his affliction, he declares that God has been good and faithful.
2. **The Prayer of the Afflicted — Psalm 119:66-68** - The psalmist anchors himself in the character of God: "You are good and do good." He asks God to continue teaching him so that the lessons of affliction will not be wasted.
3. **The Priorities of the Afflicted — Psalm 119:69-70** - His enemies smear him with lies, yet he refuses to allow their accusations to determine his direction. While their hearts are unfeeling, his heart becomes increasingly devoted to God.
4. **The Profit of the Afflicted — Psalm 119:71-72** - He moves from asking why the suffering happened to recognizing what God accomplished through it. The profit was not merely that the pain ended. Through suffering, he learned to know God and value His Word more deeply.

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Key Quotes

"Affliction does not mean God has stopped dealing well with you."

"The sheep's welfare does not rest in understanding the path. The sheep's welfare rests in understanding the shepherd."

"The psalmist's affliction became the bridge between his wandering and his obedience."

"One of the greatest tragedies of suffering is to suffer without learning."

"The question isn't, 'Why am I suffering?' but 'What is God producing in me through this suffering?'"

"The profit of affliction is not that we suffer less, but that through suffering we learn to value God and His Word more."

Reflect & Respond

Complete these statements:

- The part of my present circumstances that I do not understand is...
- What I know to be true about God is...
- One way this season has exposed my need for God is...
- One truth from God's Word I need to treasure is...
- My prayer for this season is...

Walking in the Word This Week

Read Psalm 119:65–72 each day this week. Each day, write down:

1. One evidence of God's goodness.
2. One lesson He may be teaching you.

Prayer Prompt: Father, You are good, and You do good. When I cannot understand Your providence, help me remember Your character and look to the cross. Keep my suffering from hardening my heart or drawing me away from You. Show me where I have wandered, teach me wisdom through Your Word, and make Your truth more precious to me than anything this world can give. Do not allow the lessons of affliction to be wasted in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

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