

WHY?????

Psalm 119:71

Psalm 119:71 (NIV)

*71 It was good for me to be afflicted
SO THAT I might learn your decrees.*

Introduction

When something unexpected happens in our life, it's easy for us to ask God **WHY IT HAPPENED**.
Asking questions is not a bad thing....You are in good company....

- **Moses asked**, “**WHY** have you dealt ill with your servant?” **Numbers 11:11**
- **David asked**, “Oh Lord **WHY** do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” **Psalm 10:1**
- **Habakkuk asked**, “**WHY** do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?” **Habakkuk 1:3**
 - **Job asked**, “**WHY** have you made me your target?” **Job 7:20**
 - **The disciples asked**, “**WHY** was this man born blind?” **John 9:2**
- **Jesus on the cross asked** God “My God, my God, **WHY** have you forsaken me?” **Matthew 27:46**

It's ok to ask God our questions.

It's ok to tell God how we're feeling, He **ALREADY KNOWS** anyway, and He wants to be included.

Tonight's Study will show that **GOD NEVER PROMISED ANSWERS.... BUT AFFLICTIONS....**

Psalm 34:19 ~ Many are the **AFFLICTIONS** of the **RIGHTEOUS**....

John 16:33 ~ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have “**AFFLICTION**”. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Mark 10:29-30 ~ Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for My sake and for the gospel... will fail to receive a hundredfold in the present age— houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, along with **AFFLICTIONS**— and in the age to come, eternal life.

Introduction

AFFLICTION is an old word that means **any difficult** or **painful circumstance**.

AFFLICTIONS are **pressures that extend you to your limit...**

Trials, tribulations, persecutions, calamities, sickness, disease, turmoil, distress...
Some experience *AFFLICTION* in the form of disappointments, lack, and rejection...

AFFLICTION is part of living in this **fallen world**.

BECAUSE OF THE PAIN associated with **affliction**, many people would rather **not deal with affliction...**

There are those who think that a Christian life should be **trouble-free/affliction free**.

There are those who would suggest that if you are going through trouble, turmoil, or trials, you don't have **ENOUGH FAITH**. The Bible is quite clear that as believers **WE WILL ENCOUNTER AFFLICTIONS** and adversity. Being a Christian does not grant immunity from trouble. Being saved does not exempt you from going through trials. Rather, it **may indicate** that you are being **REFINED** in the **FURNACE OF AFFLICTION**.

Christian marriages fall apart. Christians get sick. Christians have financial difficulty. Christian parents have trouble with their children. Christians lose their job, their homes, and cars.

God never Promised **ANSWERS/EXPLANATIONS**....Be he did **PROMISE AFFLICTIONS**...

We all must deal with **AFFLICTIONS**...

Introduction

So Let's Examine This Passage Tonight.... To See A Few Answers To WHY?

Psalm 119:71 (NIV)

71 It was good for me to be AFFLICTEDSO THAT I might learn your decrees.

The Psalmist says...IT IS GOOD that I WAS AFFLICTED...

The word GOOD (toVE) in Hebrew is interesting word... In feminine form it means pleasant, kind, or agreeable...

But this word is in the neuter form which means beneficial, prosperous, or of value...

*Affliction is not good by itself and does not usually seem good to us when we are enduring it,
but it has a good purpose when God sends it...*

Affliction becomes a NECESSARY TOOL in the Hand of God

*These are lessons learned from the REAR-VIEW MIRROR... Didn't understand it while its happening
but after the fact you can look back over your life and say with the words of the Psalmist...*

It IS good.... That I Was Afflicted...

Thank God for some of things I went through

Thank God for some of people that hurt me

Thank God for some of the circumstances that caused me to cry....

Although the Enemy meant it for evil, God worked it for good...

Introduction

As I began to study this text, my mind started to reflect on the Past Few Years...

*The **Pain** We've Endured*

*The **Problems** We've Overcome*

*The **People** We've Tolerated*

*The **Patience** We've Had To Exhibit*

*The **Predicaments** We've Had To Experience*

*The **Pandemic** We've Had To Survive*

*The **Pressure** We've Had To Withstand*

*We've Gone through **Much Affliction** through the Past Few Years...*

But Through It all... I can stand tonight and say

*It Was **Absolutely Necessary***

*Did Your **WHY** change on the other side of the Affliction???*

*Began with.....**WHY IS THIS HAPPENING.....***

*Ends with.... **Why did you BRING ME THROUGH IT???***

Affliction Is Necessary For Transition

Psalm 119:67 (NIV)

67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I obey your word.

The Psalmist wants us to know, the afflictions he endured were sent by God to get him back on track...

Going astray in this passage, has to do with ignorance {own way}, felt obedience was optional... It means that before God brought affliction into his life, he trusted his own judgment and wandered down vain and harmful paths.

Can you go back down memory lane and remember when you strayed away from the right path of righteous living... Big and bad enough to do what you wanted to do...go where you wanted to go...

Isaiah 53:6 says that "All we like sheep have gone astray..." We put God on hold ~chasing stuff

You prayed, but not much because all was well....

You read your bible, but not with conviction, because all was well...

You attended church, but not with purpose, because all was well...

You served in ministry, but not with total commitment, because all was well...

The Psalmists says the affliction was a necessary tool of correction to steer him in the right direction

Affliction Is Necessary For Transition

Biblical Illustration ~ The Prodigal Son

The Prodigal son left home saying “*Give Me*”... “This House is not *Worthy of me*”... Don't Like *Rules After Some Affliction* and he was *brought to his senses* in the far country.

When did Elijah move from beside the brook and start to move as God commanded? *When* the brook *dried up!*
When did Jonah decide to go to Nineveh and preach as God commanded? After he was *swallowed up?* GOD will do
WHATEVER it takes to get your *ATTENTION... CHANGE YOUR DIRECTION*

Jeremiah 22:21 (ESV)

21 I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, ‘I will not listen...’

Thank God....HE *kept on SPEAKING!!!!*

And *When* that Word gets in your spirit you *MAKE A U-TURN*

I GOT IT NOW MOMENT....

I was wandering and wayward ~ Headed in the wrong Direction... BUT NOW

I was struggling, scheming, and seeking stuff ~ Headed down the wrong Path... BUT NOW

I once was lost, misled, and mistreated by others ~ Hanging with the wrong crowd.... BUT NOW...

Was Conflicted, complaining, and conceited... BUT NOW... content, convinced, and Confident...

THAT GOD WILL MAKE A WAY SOMEHOW

Affliction Is Necessary For My Teaching

Psalm 119:71 (NIV)

71 It was good for me to be afflicted SO THAT I might learn your decrees.

Learned ~ "lamad" ~ expert training instructions

*The bible teaches us that "Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered" Hebrews 5:8 ...
One of the purposes of affliction is to teach us things we would not otherwise know/learn...*

Some lessons you CANT LEARN while the sun is shining...On the mountain top...

Martin Luther stated, "That I never knew the meaning of God's Word, until I came into affliction"...

It has become the chief school master...

He began to know the depths of God's word through the deep waters of affliction

In Psalm 119:66 ~ Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I BELIEVE in your commands.

God didn't send him to seminary or Bible Class

He put him in the Classroom of Critical Circumstances

He put him in the School of Sickness, Sorrow, and Suffering

He put him in the Academy of Adversity, Animosity, and Affliction

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THERE....

Affliction Is Necessary For My Teaching

Live and Learn

*When friends/family walked out on you.... **I Learned** about A Friend that Sticks closer than...*

*When tuition money didn't come in....**I Learned** My God shall supply....*

Your Enemy was trying to take you out ...I Learned No weapon formed...

*You didn't have strength to fight.... **I Learned** God is my refuge and strength...*

*Paul said.... **I LEARNED** in whatever state I'm in there with **TO BE CONTENT...***

*Before trouble...I **liked** the Word*

*After Trouble - I **Learned** the Word*

*After Trouble – I **Love** the Word*

*After Trouble – I **Live** the Word*

*After Trouble - I **Lean** on the Word*

Seminary training is good...but thank God for dealing with trouble, trials, and tribulation....

Songwriter states.....

I thank God for the mountains ~ And I thank Him for the valleys

I thank Him for the storms He brought me through

*For if I'd never had a problem ~ I wouldn't **KNOW** God could solve them*

*I'd never **KNOW** what faith in God could do*

*Romans 8:28 ~ And **WE KNOW**.... All things Work Together....*

Affliction Is Necessary For My Teaching

Psalm 119:71 (NIV)

*71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that **I might learn** your decrees.*

Now You Have Knowledge.... Not Just Informational Knowledge but Experiential Knowledge

*You **Know** What The Lord Can Do*

*You **Know** Where the Lord Has Brought You From*

*You **Know** Who To Call On*

*You **Know** Who To Trust*

*You **Know** Who God Is*

Illustration...

*Father Took His Son To A Local Mechanic ~ The Mechanic was **talking well** ~
He **explained** all the details about the engine and his son was **very impressed**...*

Suddenly the father said, Son let's go...

In the car, the son asked his dad, why did we leave, he knew a lot about engines...

His dad said, YES, But he didn't have any grease under his nails....

DIDN'T SEE ANY EVIDENCE OF HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES...

Affliction Is Necessary For My Testimony

Psalm 119:74 (NIV)

74 May those who fear you rejoice *when they see me*,
for I have put *my hope* in your word.

The psalmist realizes that what happened to him and how he reacts to it can be a source of either *encouragement* or *discouragement* to others.... **ALL EYES ARE ON YOU...**

The greatest testimony of a believer is not how you smile when all is well...
but **CAN YOU STILL SHINE** in the **DARKEST HOURS** of the night...

Over the past few years... We've *endured* the storm
Over the past few years... We've *survived* the suffering
Over the past few years... We've *made it through* the pain

One reason God helps us in our time of trouble is that when we have come through it, we will be *equipped to help others* in their times of trouble. God comforts us *so that* we might comfort others.

We have **Credibility** because of what we've **Overcome**....
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE A LIVING TESTIMONY IS WE SURVIVED!!!!

Affliction Is Necessary For My Testimony

There was value in my affliction ~ There was purpose in my affliction ~ There was worth in my affliction

What we've been through was

*Absolutely **NECESSARY** For Your Testimony*

Psalm 51:10-13 (NKJV)

*10 Create **in me** a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit **within me**.*

*11 Do not **cast me** away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit **from me**.*

*12 Restore **to me** the joy of Your salvation, And **uphold me** by Your generous Spirit.*

*13 **THEN I** will teach transgressors Your ways, **AND SINNERS SHALL BE CONVERTED TO YOU**.*

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

*31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, **Satan has asked for you**, that he may **sift you** as wheat.*

*32 But I have prayed **for you**, that **your faith** should not fail; and when **you have returned** to Me,
STRENGTHEN YOUR BRETHREN."*

WHY..... Am I Going Through This...

Why... Am I Dealing With This....

Why...

Because It Is Necessary.....

Necessary For My Transition... Get Me Back In Track

Necessary For My Teaching..... Learn God's Word

Necessary For My Testimony... A Witness To The World