

*If you are here, then this must be a season of suffering in your life. And you want to know, **where is God in all this?** I am not sure where you are, but I can probably say that I understand. I have had my own suffering and my own affliction for about 6 years. Circumstances may be different, but suffering is suffering, and pain is pain. I pray this look into suffering will be a comfort to you. May it open your eyes to see that God does not waste anything, any season. He does not waste a single tear or cry as He molds and shapes us into the image of His Son. If there is something that I have learned in my years of affliction is this: God is more concerned about my consecration than He is about my comfort. I want comfort, and a life without pain. But God wants me to look more like His Son, Jesus Christ. And, He has deemed, at least for me, and I am pretty sure for you, that suffering right now in your journey is the best for you.*

And, after all, we do want His will to be done—a prayer which never fails.

GOOD TO KNOW

This study is written from the perspective of God being Lord in our suffering. But, if you do not know Him as Lord, then there is a simple remedy.

A— ADMIT that you need help. Admit that you don't have all the answers. Admit that you will step out and trust God to lead, love and save you.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23

B— BELIEVE that what God says He will do, He will do. Believe that God loves you. Believe that God had a plan from before the world began to send His Son, Jesus, to seek and to save that which was lost – mankind. Believe that He is for you, not against you. For this is how God loved the world: *He gave His one and only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

C— CONFESS with your heart and your mouth that you are a sinner. Confess that Jesus is Lord.

Confess that you cannot do this life without Him. Confess that you need and want forgiveness for the sins you have committed

But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:

If you did these ABC's, you are in the family of God! And let me say welcome. I'd love to connect with you if you have.

GET READY

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your instructions. Psalm 119:18

It's a good idea to begin each study time with prayer. Psalm 119:18 is a great verse to pray back to God as you prepare to spend time in His Word.

STUDY THE PASSAGE

Below, you will find our focus passage (Psalm 119:65-72) written out. I have found it is helpful to look for and mark common words and phrases in passages I am studying in the Word. Read the passage, paying attention to the who, what, where, why, and how. Here are some specific words to mark:

LORD (and all pronouns referring to Him). I like to draw a purple box around the word, and highlight in yellow. These royal colors make the Lord's presence in the passage stand out.

COMMANDS (or any other word referencing God's Word or Law). Choose a color to highlight or circle these words.

OBEY (and synonyms). Choose a color to highlight or circle these words.

SUFFERING / AFFLICTION (and synonyms). Pick another color to highlight or circle these words. There may be other words which stand out to you that you might want to highlight or mark.

PRONOUNS and TIME are always good to note. This exercise helps to identify what this passage is about, and sheds light on what the Biblical author, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is telling us. Refer back to this passage as you continue through the study, and mark anything else that stands out to you. At the end of the study, we will come back and review this passage again.

THE PASSAGE

You have done many good things for me, LORD, just as You promised. I believe in Your commands; now teach me good judgment and knowledge. I used to wander off until You disciplined me; now I closely follow Your Word. You are good and do only good; teach me Your decrees. Arrogant people smear me with lies, but in truth I obey Your commandments with all my heart. Their hearts are dull and stupid, but I delight in Your instructions. My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to Your decrees. Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.

Psalm 119: 65-72 (NLT)

SESSION 1: PSALM 119

Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I keep Your Word. Psalm 119:67

◀ Define the “Before” in your life:

◀ What is your “affliction”? Sometimes it is good to write it down so you can get it out of your head and heart.

◀ Let’s look at the word “afflicted.” In Exodus 1:12, what was the affliction of the Israelite, and what was the result of their affliction? Does reading this passage give you hope?

◀ Moses was an incredible man of God and yet, he too, was afflicted. Read Moses’ conversation with God in Numbers 11:11. What did Moses ask God?

◀ In Ruth 1:21, Naomi asked God a question that many of us have asked. What was her question?

◀Using a dictionary and concordance, look up the words AFFLICTED or AFFLICTION. I like using Webster's 1828 Dictionary, and Strong's Concordance. Are the definitions of these words different than you expected?

In the next few sessions, we are going to study the Israelite, Moses, and Naomi, and how they responded to God's sovereignty in the midst of affliction in their lives.

Continue to meditate on the passage of scripture as well as any other scripture that relates to this study and look for the next session online at www.christianwomenliving.com.

THE SEARCH

© 2021 Kerry Teravskis. All rights reserved.