

Psalms 119:65-80

# Connect with God's Word

# Introduction

- As the old adage states "no pain, no gain." The same is true with Christian growth, maturity, and godliness.
- We are quick to say that we want to grow as believers, that we want to mature and become more Christlike. But do we truly understand the price this requires?
- **I.N.S.T.R.U.C.T.I.O.N.**
  - I = Imagine the benefits
  - N = Narrow your focus
  - S = Search your heart
  - T = Turn to God's Word
  - R = Ready yourself for Affliction

**Psalm 119:65-80**

# Realize God's Goodness

## Psalm 119:65-68

- Even though the psalmist was suffering the anguish of persecution, he recognized God's goodness in his life
- The psalmist wasn't asking God to do good for him; he was stating that God had already accomplished good for him
- Rather than crumble in the affliction, he focused on God's goodness and it produced in him resilience
- Even though he was suffering intensely, he affirmed the fact that God is good and that everything He does is good
- Every affliction, every challenge, and every trial -- even persecution is an opportunity for God to reveal His goodness to us

# Recognize the Opportunity

## Psalm 119:69-72

- God says I have chosen you in the furnace of affliction
- God's grace gives us the ability to reframe our situation from a crushing trial to a teachable moment
- God wants to teach us lessons that will strengthen us, mature us, and make us more like Christ
- In the end, the psalmist's pain gave him far more value by connecting with the Scripture than it cost him in affliction
- When we persevere in our struggles and look for God's hand in them, we will eventually understand that the Lord is compassionate and merciful

# Rest in God's Nature

## Psalm 119:73-75

- He made a fourfold confession to God that can also serve as a guide for us we face severe trials:
  - First, we need to remember that God made us and lovingly formed us
  - Second, we need God's help to understand His Word and to follow it faithfully
  - Third, we need God's help to stay faithful so that we can be a strong testimony and blessing to others
  - Fourth, we need to remember that everything God does is right. He is always faithful to us, without fail

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# Request God's Provision

## Psalm 119:76-80

- Apparently, the psalmist's suffering was far from over
- Five requests that he makes to ready himself for the afflictions to come:
  - 1. That His unfailing love would be a comfort
  - 2. That His compassion would surround and protect him
  - 3. That the arrogant be shamed
  - 4. That his experience (testimony) would be an encouragement to others
  - 5. That he would be blameless in obeying God's Word