

# Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture! Psalm 119:73-80

## Psalm 119:73-80

### **Psalm 119:73**

*(KJV) JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.*

*(NIV) Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.*

We begin our tenth stanza of Psalm 119 with the letter *Jod*, which is the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and has the non-distinction of being the smallest letter (think smallest nation Israel - Deuteronomy 7:7), the most humble letter (think Moses - Numbers 12:3), the most creative letter - central as it is to the components of every other Hebrew letter, and considered in the Jewish mindset to represent the divine dot, the beginning of the creative infrastructure of Genesis. Hallelujah, we are talking about the supernatural creative power of God Himself *in the beginning!*

Oh, and that's just for starters! But we have now some context for the next eight verses of Psalm 119.

### **Psalm 119:73**

*(KJV) JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.*

*(NIV) Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.*

While it is true that we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and each of us is uniquely and distinctly created by God (Psalm 139:14), and by these truths we may surmise that some people are born more intelligent and have more understanding than others, this verse teaches us that when it comes to Holy Scripture, any and all believers should pray and ask God for understanding. And why? To obey Him! We would do well to heed Solomon's advice here:

### **Ecclesiastes 12:12-14**

*And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

### **Psalm 119:74**

*(KJV) They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.*

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

Beloved, do you want your life to so exude character and truth, that the Scriptures pour out of you as naturally as a waterfall? These are the people who best fit the description of the psalmist in Psalm 1:

**Psalm 1:1-3**

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

*That bringeth forth his fruit in his season.*

So the fruit borne of the psalmist, or from any believer rooted and grounded in God's Word - meditating on it day and night - is not for his own edification alone, but for those around him who love the Lord and are hungry for more of Him!

Dear Christian, start the line here...

**Psalm 119:75**

*(KJV) I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.*

*(NIV) I know, LORD, that your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.*

*In faithfulness.* So, you may ask, to whom or what is God faithful? The psalmist knows the answer here: it is to God Himself, the perfect Righteous Judge, and to His unchanging Word, that He is faithful. You and I need only to be brought into alignment to God's will through His Word. Often God allows affliction or hardship to discipline us and bring us quickly back into obedience and right relationship with Him.

**Hebrews 5:8**

*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

**Hebrews 12:3-11**

*Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

So, dear Christian, trust in the Lord. Trust in His discipline!

### **Psalm 119:76**

*(KJV) Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.*

*(NIV) May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.*

This verse is a perfect compliment to the previous verse, in that we endure the Lord's perfect chastening by trusting in His merciful kindness and comfort, just as a loving parent administers discipline unto their child within a relationship of trust and a spirit of love.

\*STUDY POINT: Write down ten instances from the New Testament where God administered discipline to one of His own children. What can you learn about God from these passages and about the way in which He parents us?

### **Psalm 119:77**

*(KJV) Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.*

*(NIV) Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.*

While undeserved favour, that is grace, is not earned through our adherence to God's Law, our delight in His law, as the psalmist expresses here, is the fruit of a right relationship with the Lord through obedience and a Spirit-revealed understanding of God's compassion and love toward us.

*That I may live.* Beloved, you and I know that our salvation through Jesus was, is, and will always be His ultimate act of compassion toward us - compassion that forever results in our praise!

### **Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### **Psalm 119:78**

*(KJV) Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts.*

*(NIV) May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging me without cause; but I will meditate on your precepts.*

As we witnessed in previous stanzas of Psalm 119, the relationship the psalmist has with God through His Word is not without toils and snares from the Evil One, for evil people - called here the proud, the arrogant - falsely accuse the psalmist and attempt to push him off the path of righteousness. To which the psalmist responds by staying in God's Word and obeying it.

**Proverbs 4:27** *Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

We would do well to do the same!

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Can you recall a time when the Evil One tried to push you off the path of a right walk with God, specifically through a person? How did you respond? Or did you respond? How will you now respond in the future?

## **Psalm 119:79**

*(KJV) Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.*

*(NIV) May those who fear you turn to me, those who understand your statutes.*

Jesus prayed after finishing His Father's work on earth that we as followers of Him would stay on the same page, rooted and grounded in God's Word alone, lifting up holy hands in unity:

## **1Timothy 2:8**

*I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

## **John 17:1-26**

*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

While His prayer still stands, and still resonates in the Spirit, I fear that the Body of Christ has been deceived and divided by a departure from truth and being about the Father's business.

*O God in heaven, we repent of our deception and distractedness at the very time when You need a holy and unified bride to come back for. Will you find faith? Will you find faith? I ask again, when You return, will you find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:7-8). If your people who are called by Your name will humble themselves and pray (2 Chronicles 7:14)...Lord, we know the verses. We just need to obey. God set us aright. Glorify Your name. Amen.*

**Psalm 119:80**

*(KJV) Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.*

*(NIV) May I wholeheartedly follow your decrees, that I may not be put to shame.*

Beloved, there may very well be pockets of disobedience in our walk with God. Let's allow God to use His Word, as the psalmist does here, to investigate our hearts, and bring us back to right relationship with Him. We conclude this week's study with a parallel passage - in the form of a prayer - from Psalm 19:

**Psalm 19:12-14**

*Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

Amen.

- Reverend Darren McClelland