

Lesson 10: Psalm 119:73-80 – *Yodh*

Trusting in God and His Word in the Midst of Affliction and Persecution

<i>ESV</i>	<i>NKJV</i>	<i>NASB</i>	<i>NIV</i>	<i>NLT</i>
73 Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.	73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.	73 Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.	73 Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.	73 You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands.
73 Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding that I may learn Your commands.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Your hands have made and fashioned me. The psalmist gladly and humbly acknowledged God as his Creator. He recognized his complete dependence on God for all things.</p> <p>When we acknowledge God as our Creator, we are admitting that we are responsible and accountable to Him. We are recognizing our complete dependence on Him. For these reasons, I think, most people refuse to acknowledge God as their Creator.</p> <p>Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. The psalmist recognized his need for God’s help to rightly understand His Word. He also recognized his responsibility as God’s creature to know, understand and live in accordance with God’s laws and commands.</p> <p>Psalm 25:8-9 – “Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.”</p>				
<p>Application:</p> <p>“Dear Lord, I praise, worship and adore You because You are my Creator. I acknowledge that I am totally dependent on You for both my physical well-being as well as my spiritual well-being. Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit to help me understand Your Word and correctly apply it to my life.”</p>				
74 Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word.	74 Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.	74 May those who fear You see me and be glad, Because I wait for Your word.	74 May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.	74 May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word.
74 May those who fear You rejoice and be glad when they see me, because I have put my hope in Your word.				

Commentary:

Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice. He desired to be an encouragement and blessing to the people of God. His life manifested his hope in and dependence on God’s Word. As people observed his life, they were blessed by his reliance on God’s Word and resultant faith in the Lord.

A genuine fear of the Lord manifests itself in love for God’s people.

Because I have hoped in Your word – Are others happy to see us because of our trust in God and His Word? We will be a blessing to others when our life and ministry are governed and guided by the Word of God.

Application:

“Lord, I confess that I do not fear You nearly enough. Please cause me to fear You as I ought.”

“May my life and ministry be a blessing, not a burden, to Your people. Help me to be a positive encourager and supporter of others.”

“Please help me to be an example of dependence and trust in Your Word that is worthy of imitation.”

75 I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

75 I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

75 I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

75 I know, O Lord, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

75 I know, O Lord, that your regulations are fair; you disciplined me because I needed it.

75 O Lord, I know that Your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted (disciplined) me.

Commentary:

I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous. The psalm writer’s knowledge of and confidence in God’s Word gave him peace and confidence in the midst of affliction. He trusted in the righteous character of God and His Word; he believed, therefore, that God was good and righteous even though He was afflicting the psalmist.

Satan would have us question the goodness and righteousness of God, especially when we are afflicted.

And that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. God’s discipline is never arbitrary or without purpose. Nor is it an indication that God no longer cares for us. To the contrary, His discipline shows that He is deeply committed to us. His faithfulness to us endures (note His steadfast, unfailing love in vs. 76). Therefore, the psalmist humbly submitted to God’s affliction.

Psalms 119:67, 71

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

71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

<p>Application: “He disciplines us for our good... holiness... righteousness.” (Hebrews 12:10-11) “Thank You, Lord, that You are always faithful and good. When You choose to afflict (discipline) me, let me recognize it for what it is and humbly submit myself to what You want to accomplish in my life.”</p>				
<p>76 Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant.</p>	<p>76 Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.</p>	<p>76 O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.</p>	<p>76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.</p>	<p>76 Now let your unfailing love comfort me, just as you promised me, your servant.</p>
<p>76 May Your unfailing love comfort me according to Your promise (word) to Your servant.</p>				
<p>Commentary: Let your steadfast love comfort me. God’s love for us is unfailing. In the midst of affliction the psalmist sought comfort and compassion from the Lord through the promises of His Word. Discipline and affliction did not drive him <i>from</i> the Lord but <i>to</i> the Lord. According to your promise to your servant. An expression of humility—he humbled himself under God’s discipline. He was not “stiff-necked.” His hope was in the promises of God. He took God at His Word.</p>				
<p>Application: “Thank You, Lord, for Your steadfast, unfailing love for me. Thank You for Your comfort. Thank You for the faithful promises of Your Word that give me comfort in the midst of affliction.”</p>				
<p>77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.</p>	<p>77 Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law is my delight.</p>	<p>77 May Your compassion come to me that I may live, For Your law is my delight.</p>	<p>77 Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.</p>	<p>77 Surround me with your tender mercies so I may live, for your instructions are my delight.</p>
<p>77 May Your compassion and mercy come to me that I may live, for Your law is my delight.</p>				
<p>Commentary: Let your mercy (compassion) come to me. He believed that God's compassion would come to him through His Word. Psalm 103:10 – “He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.” <i>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord. Great is Thy faithfulness.</i>” (Jim Gilbert) For your law is my delight. Why should I expect God’s blessing if I do not delight in Him or His Word?</p>				

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Application:

“Thank You Lord, so much, for Your incomprehensible, undeserved mercy to me. Cause me to continually delight in You and Your Word.”

78 Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

78 Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate on Your precepts.

78 May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie; But I shall meditate on Your precepts.

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

78 Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me; meanwhile, I will concentrate on your commandments.

78 May the arrogant be put to shame for lying about me without cause; but I will meditate on Your precepts.

Commentary:

May the arrogant be put to shame for lying about me without cause. The psalmist was honest and open with God about his feelings toward those who were persecuting him.

Perhaps he viewed “the arrogant” as God’s instrument for his discipline. How easy it is to forget that God is in control of everything—that nothing can be done to us by others without His permission. (Cp. Job 1:6-13; 2:1-6) What lessons does He want us to learn through persecution or difficult trials?

He did not seek to take matters into his own hands regarding “the arrogant.” He prayed that God would deal with them.

Lying about me without cause. Slander and lies are characteristic of the children of the devil, the father of lies. This is a common tactic of those who are enemies of God and His people.

As for me, I will meditate on your precepts. He did not become bitter by focusing on those who were wronging him; rather, he became better by meditating on God’s Word. The things we continually meditate on have a great impact and influence on how we feel and behave. The reality of who we are is not found so much in what we say as in what we think and do.

Application:

“Please help me to remember that You are in control of the circumstances of my life at all time and to trust You in the midst of those circumstances. Help me to trust You to deal appropriately with my enemies in Your time and in Your way.”

79 Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies.	79 Let those who fear You turn to me, Those who know Your testimonies.	79 May those who fear You turn to me, Even those who know Your testimonies.	79 May those who fear you turn to me, those who understand your statutes.	79 Let me be united with all who fear you, with those who know your laws.
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79 May those who fear You turn to me, those who know and understand Your testimonies.

Commentary:

Let those who fear you turn to me. Fear of the Lord (reverential awe and respect) comes from a deep understanding and appreciation of His Word.

Cp. vs. 74 – “Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word.”

That they may know your testimonies. The writer desired to teach the Word of God to others. He wanted to be seen by others as a reliable instructor of God’s Word. (Cp. Titus 2:7-10)

Application: “Lord, please help me to be a reliable instructor of Your Word to others, both by precept and example.”

80 May my heart be blameless in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame!	80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.	80 May my heart be blameless in Your statutes, So that I will not be ashamed.	80 May my heart be blameless toward your decrees, that I may not be put to shame.	80 May I be blameless in keeping your decrees; then I will never be ashamed.
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80 May my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, so that I will not be ashamed.

Commentary:

May my heart be blameless in your statutes. He had prayed that his enemies would be put to shame (vs. 78). Now, he prays that he would not fall into the same pit they were in and be put to shame together with them.

Integrity begins in the heart. It comes from the inside out.

“Though the Hebrew says: ‘May my *heart* be blameless’ (RSV), it should not be forgotten that the heart is the center of all thinking activity (*Denkwerkstaette*). The emphasis seems to be on being totally occupied with the Lord’s statutes... “May all my thinking be wholly on Thy statutes... Wholesome meditation on the divine Word should be our continual occupation.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 840)

That I may not be put to shame! Disobedience results in shame.

Application: “Lord, please help me to be a person of genuine integrity. Please help me to live a blameless life before You.”

Yodh

73 Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding that I may learn Your commands.

74 May those who fear You rejoice and be glad when they see me, because I have put my hope in Your word.

75 O Lord, I know that Your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted (disciplined) me.

76 May Your unfailing love comfort me according to Your promise (word) to Your servant.

77 May Your compassion and mercy come to me that I may live, for Your law is my delight.

79 May the arrogant be put to shame for lying about me without cause; but I will meditate on Your precepts.

80 May my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, so that I will not be ashamed.