

## Lesson 9: Psalm 119:65-72 – Teth

*Affliction Produces Obedience and the Desire to Learn More of God’s Word*

ESV	NKJV	NASB	NIV	NLT
<p><b>65 You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.</b></p>	<p><b>65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word.</b></p>	<p><b>65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word.</b></p>	<p><b>65 Do good to your servant according to your word, O Lord.</b></p>	<p><b>65 You have done many good things for me, Lord, just as you promised.</b></p>
<p><b>65 O Lord, You have been very good to me, Your servant, according to Your promises (Word).</b></p>				
<p><b>Commentary:</b>  <b>You have dealt well with your servant.</b> “...a confession of the Lord’s goodness toward the writer.” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 837</i>)  <b>O Lord, according to your word.</b> God always acts in accordance with His Word, never contrary to it. His behavior is always consistent with His Word. The psalmist could, therefore, confidently claim the promises of God’s Word.                      It is always appropriate to ask God to behave consistently with His character as revealed in His Word because He always will. How wonderful that God is consistent and faithful!                      Note the emphasis on "good" in this section: vss. 65,66,68,71.</p>				
<p><b>Application:</b>                      “Thank You, Lord, for Your abundant goodness and faithfulness to me. Thank You that You are consistent and dependable, that You always act in accordance with Your Word. Thank You for the privilege of being Your servant.”</p>				
<p><b>66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.</b></p>	<p><b>66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments.</b></p>	<p><b>66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments.</b></p>	<p><b>66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.</b></p>	<p><b>66 I believe in your commands; now teach me good judgment and knowledge.</b></p>
<p><b>66 Teach me good judgment (discernment) and knowledge, for I believe in Your commands.</b></p>				
<p><b>Commentary:</b>  <b>Teach me good judgment and knowledge.</b> God, through His Word, will bless us with knowledge and good judgment (discernment). True knowledge and good judgment will always be in agreement with God’s Word. He will teach us but we must also seek it out.  <b>I believe in Your commands.</b> “Have confidence in; God’s commands are not deceitful...or fickle...” (<i>NIV Study Bible, p. 917</i>)                      “...pointing to the source from which most of these insights come...” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 837</i>)</p>				

God will teach us through His Word but we must believe and respond appropriately to what He teaches.

**Application:** "Thank You, Lord, for making good judgment, discernment and true knowledge available to me through Your Word."

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

**67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.**

**67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.**

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

**67 I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word.**

**67 Before I was afflicted (disciplined) I went astray, but now I obey (closely follow) Your word.**

**Commentary:**

**Before I was afflicted I went astray.** God disciplines us in love and for our good. God's intention is that affliction should drive us to Him and His Word and produce godly character in us. (Cp. Hebrews 12:5-13)

**Astray.** "Away from the correct path or direction. Away from the right or good, as in thought or behavior; straying to or into wrong or evil ways. On an incorrect or improper course; off the mark; wide of the mark; wrong." (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)

Straying. "To move away from...the correct course, or go[ing] beyond established limits. To become lost. To wander about without a destination or purpose; roam. Wander. To deviate from a moral, proper, or right course." (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)

"...another source of deep insight, affliction. Affliction furnishes not only deeper understanding but other safeguards such as making a man more reliable in his ways. For the writer confesses that before he was afflicted he was inclined to go astray from the Lord's ways. He now keeps the Word, which teaches the ways of the Lord, with greater fidelity." (*Leupold, Exposition, pp. 837-38*)

"The term 'afflicted' could be translated 'humbled' as Luther rendered it. He thus stresses a result...whereas our versions stress the process." (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 838*) Affliction is the process; humility is the result.

"*afflicted.* At the hands of God (see v. 71...)." (*NIV Study Bible, p. 917*)

**But now I keep your word.** Affliction / discipline produced obedience.

"God's goodness, manifested also in the affliction which He permits His servant to suffer, drives him closer to the Word." (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 837*)

**Application:**

I need to respond to affliction and God's discipline with humility and submission.

I need to learn to view affliction as coming to me from the hand of God. Unfortunately, that probably requires that I suffer affliction! Affliction and other difficult circumstances are God's classroom for producing godly character in His children. Affliction can be mental, emotional, physical, spiritual.

I long for godly character but I loathe the classroom which produces it!

"Lord, help me to respond properly, with a humble, submissive attitude, when You place me in the classroom of affliction."

James 1:2-4 – “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”  
 “Lord, I pray that You will help me to rise to the occasion. I don’t know that this coronavirus pandemic is affliction from Your hand, but it certainly is affliction of a sort. Help me to come out of this a more holy, righteous, and godly man. Help me to humbly submit myself to what You are doing, to learn the lessons You have for me to learn.”

68 You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.	68 You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.	68 You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes.	68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.	68 You are good and do only good; teach me your decrees.
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**68 You are good and all that You do is good; teach me Your statutes.**

**Commentary:**  
**You are good and do is good.** Acknowledgment of God’s goodness even in the midst of painful discipline.  
 God’s works flow out of and are consistent with His character. We may not know or understand what He is doing in and through our afflictions, but we can rest assured that it is good because God is good.  
 Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”  
 “...God is good and loves to do good to His faithful ones.” (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 838*)  
 It takes faith to make such a confession in the midst of the trial!  
**Teach me Your statutes.** As we learn the decrees and statutes of God, we will know Him better and will better understand that His goodness is operative in all the circumstances of our lives.

**Application:**  
 “Thank You for Your consistent goodness to me—totally undeserved! What is happening in the world looks bad, and it is, but I believe that You are good and You are doing good in the world. Thank You for being a good God!”

69 The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;	69 The proud have forged a lie against me, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.	69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me; With all my heart I will observe Your precepts.	69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.	69 Arrogant people smear me with lies, but in truth I obey your commandments with all my heart.
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**69 The arrogant smear me with lies, but I obey Your precepts with my whole heart.**

**Commentary:**  
**The insolent smear me with lies.** Life is not fair!

Perhaps their lies were the source of his affliction. Or, in the midst of his affliction they may have been attacking him, causing even greater distress.

**But with my whole heart I keep your precepts.** Persecution, affliction, slander did not cause him to become discouraged and give up. Wholehearted obedience regardless of the circumstances.

**Application:**

How easy it is for me to fall away from the Lord and His Word in times of distress! How foolish to stop taking your medicine when you start feeling sick, to reject the lifesaver when the waves start crashing over your head! God and His Word are your only real hope in the midst of life's storms.

"Lord, please help me to obey Your Word wholeheartedly."

**70 their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.**

**70 Their heart is as fat as grease, But I delight in Your law.**

**70 Their heart is covered with fat, But I delight in Your law.**

**70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.**

**70 Their hearts are dull and stupid, but I delight in your instructions.**

**70 Their hearts are covered with fat, callous and unfeeling (dull and stupid), but I delight in Your law.**

**Commentary:**

**Their heart is unfeeling like fat.** "Lit. 'fat as grease.'" (*NIV Study Bible, p. 917*)

"i.e., insensible and incapable of receiving spiritual truth." (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 913*)

Insensitive, uncaring and unresponsive to God and His Word. Sin creates an increasingly greater insensitivity to God and His Word.

**But I delight in your law.** What a contrast with the attitudes of the wicked! Sensitivity, responsiveness to God and His Word.

**Application:**

"Please remove the 'fat' from my own heart that I might be responsive to You and Your Word, O Lord. Cause me to delight in Your Word."

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

**71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.**

**71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.**

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

**71 My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.**

**71 It is good for me that I was afflicted (disciplined) so that I might learn Your statutes.**

**Commentary:**

**It is good for me that I was afflicted.** Affliction / discipline may be God's only way to penetrate our callousness and insensitivity.

"Do good to me in accordance with your goodness, even if that means affliction, because your affliction is good for me; it teaches me knowledge and good judgment from your law." (*NIV Study Bible, p. 917*)

**That I might learn your statutes.** See vs. 67 above. The benefit that can come from affliction. A proper attitude can produce positive results in bad circumstances. Are your trials making you bitter or better? It all depends on your attitude! Happiness is a choice.

“...this experience (affliction), rightly met, gives a man deeper insight into God's statutes.” (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 838*).

The psalmist regarded affliction from the wicked as being ultimately sourced in the Lord. They were merely a tool that the Lord was using in his life. (Cp. vs. 75).

**Application:**

How difficult it is in the midst of the trial to say, “This is good! It is good for me to be afflicted.”

“Lord, I confess, many times I do not think it is good for me to suffer. I would prefer not to suffer—but then I do not grow. Help me to believe, truly believe, it is good.”

**72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.**

**72 The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.**

**72 The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver pieces.**

**72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.**

**72 Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.**

**72 The law from Your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.**

**Commentary:**

**The law from Your mouth.** God has spoken to man. (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 838*)

**Is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.** (*NIV*) What high regard for the Word of God, and rightfully so!

“See vv. 14,57,111,162.” (*NIV Study Bible, p. 917*)

**Application:**

Reflect on what lengths some people will go to in order to obtain money. How diligent I should be with regard to the treasure found in God’s Word! “Thank You, Lord, for the precious treasure which is Your Word.”

***Teth***

**65 O Lord, You have been very good to me, Your servant, according to Your promises (Word).**

**66 Teach me good judgment (discernment) and knowledge, for I believe in Your commands.**

**67 Before I was afflicted (disciplined) I went astray, but now I obey (closely follow) Your word.**

**68 You are good and all that You do is good; teach me Your statutes.**

**69 The arrogant smear me with lies, but I obey Your precepts with my whole heart.**

**70 Their hearts are covered with fat, callous and unfeeling (dull and stupid), but I delight in Your law.**

**71 It is good for me that I was afflicted (disciplined) so that I might learn Your statutes.**

**72 The law from Your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.**