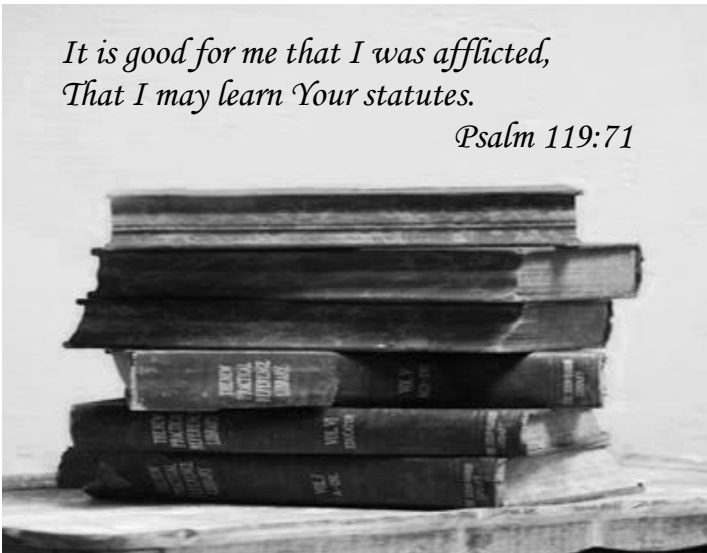


*It is Good
for Me That I
Was Afflicted*

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

Psalms 119:71



*Affliction brings out graces
that cannot be seen in a time of health.
It is the treading of the grapes
that brings out the sweet juices of the vine;
so it is affliction that draws forth submission,
weanedness from the world
and complete rest in God.
Robert Murray McChesney*

1. Dreams, plans, and ambitions

*Psalm 66:16 Come and hear, all who fear God,
And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.*

2. God's gracious saving provisions

*Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord
directs his steps.*

3. God's purpose of affliction

Psalm 119:71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.*

4. God is in control

*The aim of God in our cancer is to knock
the props out from under our hearts
so that we rely utterly on Him.
John Piper Don't Waste Your Cancer*

Job 23:14 *For He performs what is appointed for me. . .*

Isaiah 46:9-10 *Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
saying, 'My purpose will be established,
and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'*

5. Affliction builds strength and endurance

Isaiah 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.*

6. *Beneficial lessons of God's afflictions*

- Ministry opportunities

II Corinthians 1:4 Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

I Peter 3:15 But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

- Devotional time more meaningful

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

- Greater appreciation for my family

- Love, forget, and let go!

Isaiah 43:18-19 Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new; now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

- Thankfulness and gratitude

Psalm 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalm 107:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

- Greater appreciation for life

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.

- More empathy for others

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

- Putting priorities in order

Psalm 90:12a *So teach us to number our days.*

James 4:14 *Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.*

- Power of prayer

James 5:16b *The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

- Living with the end in mind

Romans 8:18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

1 Peter 1:6-7 *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

7. What to say to a cancer patient

8. Final thoughts on affliction

Psalm 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

"Afflictions make the heart more deep, more experimental, more knowing and profound, and so, more able to hold, to contain, and beat more." John Bunyan

"The winter prepares the earth for the spring, so do afflictions sanctified prepare the soul for glory." Richard Sibbes

"The Lord gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction." Charles Spurgeon

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26*

