

Psalm 119

week 14, verse 75-76

Ps 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Thy judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.

1. I know God's judgments are righteous.
2. I know that in faithfulness God has afflicted me.

Once again, we see the heart of humility in this verse. There is no argument, there is no questioning, there is acceptance and agreement.

How often do we 'fight' God's ways by questioning Him? We can miss the whole point of God's correction when we refuse to acknowledge His righteousness.

This section of scripture beginning in verse 73 began with giving praise to God for making us, requesting understanding to learn what He wants from us and, in verse 74, realizing that our reaction can produce hope in others. Genuine trust in God continues even in times of correction. God disciplines us because He is faithful and loves us.

David states he 'knows' <yada> acknowledge, comprehend, have understanding. But, his knowledge goes beyond just understanding to agreement. He describes God's judgments as righteous.

The title given to God in this verse is Lord, or Jehovah, meaning the self-Existent or Eternal God. There is no question that the God that David trusts is the One True God, the real God, the eternal God. That position gives God the right to judge.

The first step we can take in relying upon God is to agree with His position as Lord in our lives and of the Universe. Then we understand more fully why there is no room to question His judgments. God's act of judgment, His place of judgment, the fit of His judgment, the penalty of His judgment, the style of His judgment, the discretion of His judgment, the form of His judgment, all are His to determine. There are no mistakes!

Have you ever misjudged a person or situation? How does this happen? Are you able to understand all sides of a story, do you know the heart of someone?

What does it mean to be righteous?

righteous <tsedeq> natural, moral and legally right; altogether right; just

Our English dictionary describes righteous as morally justified; guiltless; just; sound; virtuous; worthy.

De 32:4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Ps 92:15 To declare that the LORD is upright; [He is] my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Jer 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation.

Da 4:34-35, 37 "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom [endures] from generation to generation. 35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And [among] the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?' 37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

Do you question God's judgment? Do you question His ways concerning your circumstances? If we do question God, perhaps we don't have a right understanding of who God is. Our understanding of God begins with humility of heart just as David's example shows us.

How would you define faithfulness?

WordWeb: faithfulness – the quality of being faithful. Steadfast in affection or allegiance – being committed and dedicated to someone or something.

faithfulness < 'emuwnah> literally firmness; figuratively security; morally fidelity; steady, truth.

Do people have trouble with faithfulness? In what ways? Do you struggle with faithfulness? What are some examples? Does God struggle with faithfulness?

Look back to De 32:4. "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Ps 33:4 For the word of the LORD is upright; And all His work is [done] in faithfulness.

Ps 36:5 Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Thy faithfulness [reaches] to the skies.

Ps 100:5 For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.

Isa 25:1 O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; For Thou hast worked wonders, Plans [formed] long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

La 3:22-23 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 [They] are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.

Think about discipline. Why is it necessary? If you have children, do you discipline them? Is it difficult? Why?

Psalms 119:75 states "in faithfulness" God has "afflicted" me. We could say "in truth" God chastens us. He is perfectly right in His discipline because He knows all things. God doesn't ignore our sin, He doesn't take a break, He doesn't "miss" something because He is unaware.

God's children are disciplined in perfect faithfulness and righteousness. We would do well to join with the Psalmist in recognizing God's authority and right over us. God perfectly loves us. His discipline in our lives is proof that we are truly His children.

Heb 12:6-11 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom [his] father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He [disciplines us] for [our] good, that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

All the dispensations of thy providence are laid in wisdom, and executed in mercy: let me see that it is through this wisdom and mercy that I have been afflicted. Adam Clarke's Commentary

Look back to Ps 119:67-68 and 71.

Think! **Would you consider it a quality of good parenting to withhold discipline?**

In the midst of affliction it is more difficult to hold on to the truths of God's love and faithfulness to His children. We can prepare our hearts with these truths now so that in difficulties to come we are easily and automatically able to praise God for His goodness.

I know -- What, David? What do you know? -- "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me."

Fond as I may yet be of other speculations, I would rather, much rather, possess the knowledge of this man in this text, than have the largest acquaintance with the whole circle of the sciences, as it is proudly called... I am apprehensive that, in the first clause, the Psalmist speaks, in general: of the ordinances, appointments, providence, and judgments of God; and the assertion is, he doth know that they are right, that they are equitable, that they are wise, that they are fair, and that they are not to be found fault with; and that though men, through folly, bring themselves into distress, and then their hearts fret against God. He was blessed with superior understanding. He excepts nothing: "I know that all thy judgments are right." Then, in the latter part of the text, he makes the matter personal. It might be said, it is an easy thing for you so to think when you see the revolutions of kingdoms, the tottering of thrones, the distresses of some mortals and the pains of others, that they are all right. "Yes," saith he, "but I have the same persuasion about all my own sorrows; I do know that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted me." --From a Sermon by John Martin, 1817.

Ps 119:76 O may Thy lovingkindness comfort me, According to Thy word to Thy servant.

What gives David comfort?

lovingkindness <checked> favor, mercy

Stop and think for a moment who God is. Then consider that He shows you His kindness and mercy. KJV says "Thy merciful kindness". **What is your response?**

Through all circumstances, God's children can claim His promises. We can be assured of God's teaching, God's correction and God's kindness.

Ps 86:5 For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee.

Ps 106:4-5 Remember me, O LORD, in [Thy] favor toward Thy people; Visit me with Thy salvation, 5 That I may see the prosperity of Thy chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Thy nation, That I may glory with Thine inheritance.

2Co 1:3-5 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; 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. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

According to verse 76 how do we know we can ask God to comfort us even in His discipline of us?

What truths do we know from Psalm 119:75-76?

1. God's judgments are perfectly just.
2. He corrects sin in our lives because He is faithful to His children.
3. God is our source of comfort.
4. God's comfort comes in the form of His "merciful kindness".
5. He *will* comfort us.
6. These promises are for those who serve Him – His children.

Application Questions

In Psalm 119:75 what does the Psalmist know? What heart attitude does it take to consider the judgment of another as righteous?

Can you have knowledge without understanding? Can you have understanding without agreement? When David says he 'knows' God's judgments are righteous, what does he mean?

David refers to God as ' Lord' . Why is this important?

Does God make mistakes in His judgment? Why or why not? Refer to Deuteronomy 32: 4 and Psalm 92: 15.

When we question God' s judgment it may be because we don' t truly understand Who He

Is. Read the story of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. What happens to Nebuchadnezzar as a result of his pride? How does his heart change when God sends affliction his way?

Define faithfulness. In Psalm 119:75 how does God show His faithfulness towards His children? According to the following scriptures describe God' s faithfulness: Ps 36:5; Ps 100:5; Isa 25:1; La 3:22-23.