

Psalms 119:73–80

Desire to Encourage the Saints

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 • Read Psalm 119:73–80

Questions from the Scripture text: What/who made the psalmist (v73a)? What does he ask for (v73b)? To do what? Who will be glad to see him (v74a)? Why (v74b)? What does the psalmist know (v75a)? What has YHWH done in faithfulness (v75b)? By what does he hope to be comforted (v76a)? According to what (v76b)? What does he hope will come to him (v77a)? With what effect? How/why (v77b)? What does he hope will happen to the proud (v78a)? Why (v78b)? By contrast, what will he do (v78c)? What does he hope those who fear YHWH will do (v79a)? What else does he call them (v79b)? What does he want his own heart to be (v80a)? Why (v80b)?

What do saints want? Psalm 119:73–80 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **saints want to bless each other.**

Because the Lord has made the Psalmist what he is (v73a), he hopes to encourage (v74) and instruct (v78) those who fear the Lord. Though the words "hands," "fearing," and "know" start the first three verses, all the rest of the verses start with the letter "yod" on the 3rd person imperfect with jussive (imperative) force. We don't have a third-person imperative in English, so we translate "let..." But it is stronger than a hope or a desire. The psalmist has distinguished himself from the wicked (v78) and desires an opposite end to theirs (v80). As he aims to be a blessing to those who fear the Lord, he hopes that he will not let them down (v80). For this reason, as in the previous stanza (v65–72), he is grateful for the afflictions by which God's love has trained him to delight in God's law (v75–77).

For whom do you hope to be an encouragement? To whom do you desire to be an example? How can this happen?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for afflicting us, and for all other means by which You have made us what we are. Give us to love Your law so that we may be an encouragement and example to all who fear You, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP119J "Your Hands Created and Established Me" or TPH119J "Give Me Insight to Learn Your Commands"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 119 verses 73 through 80. These are God's words. Your hands have made me and fashioned me. Give me understanding that. I may learn your Commandments. Those who fear you will be glad when they see me because I have hoped in your word. I know, oh, y'all fight that your judgments are right.

And that in faithfulness, you have Afflicted me. Let I pray your merciful. Kindness be for my comfort, according to your word, to your servant, let your tender Mercies. Come to me that I may live for your law, is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed. For they treated me, wrongly with falsehood But I will meditate on your precepts.

Let those who know who fear you turn to me. Let those who fear you turn to me, those who know your testimonies. Let my heart be blameless. Regarding your statutes. That I may not be ashamed. So far, the reading of gods inspired. And Aaron twerked. This stanza. Begins each verse with the letter Yod which is that tiny little letter that comes to us in the English word jot.

And Jesus says not a jot or a tittle will pass from the word of God. And it's a letter that is used, especially to start the imperfect verb, it's attached to the Hebrew root to make imperfect, ongoing verbs. But, in Hebrew. There's also a third person, imperative many imperatives actually also begin with Yoda, but there's a third person imperative.

We don't have a third person imperative. All our imperatives, our second person. A third person, imperative is a command given to a third party, they shall the way that We say this is that it is Joseph in meaning and imperfect with a dress of let him do this.

Let this happen, let that thing do this Etc, which we see in Of the eight verses here. You can see 76 through 80, let let let that is showing what the psalmist desires. And so you have

Beginning, three verses. The three words that start with yod here at the beginning.

Hand in the verse 73 fear in verse 74 and no. in verse 75. but there's kind of this beginning Foundation and then there's ex this expressed desire that takes over to shape the whole thing. So this is really a stanza about what the believer desires And especially what the believer desires in relationship to other believers.

And we see that in especially centered around verse 74, through verse 78. And then verse 79 and verse 80 Those who fear you will be glad when they see me. And so one thing that Believers desire, and with respect to other believers is that we would gladden them. That we would encourage them and strengthen them that they would be able to see how God has dealt with us and how God has enabled us to deal within and compare it to.

Their own life and say the same God who has done this for him, is the god that I have. He hoped in God's word and God made that hope come true God made that hope to stand and therefore I am glad that I hope in the same God.

So we want to Gliden other believers. We also want to set an example. For other believers. Let those who fear you turn to me. Those who know your testimonies, let my heart be blameless regarding your statutes. That I may not be ashamed. So make me such an example that those who fear you who want to know the Lord's testimonies and walk in the Lord.

Statutes would be able to have an example of that in my life. I want both to Gladden the other Believers in the Lord. And I want to be an encouraging example. For them. In order to be like this, however, we depend entirely upon Grace and that's where verse 73 starts.

When it says your hands have made me and fashioned me. It's not just talking about God. Creating our body or even our soul, our soul, he creates from nothing. Our bodies, he creates within our, our mom in the womb. The secret place or the depths of the Earth as the Lord uses in his word, both of those things.

But this word fashioned especially focuses on Outcome of the distinguishing characteristics. Has it's a way of saying, your hands. Have made me be what I am. And immediately in verse 73, you see what he is someone who loves the. Lord loves his law desires to know. God's word.

So, whatever desire you have, For the Lord himself, whatever desire, you have to understand his word and walk in his word, that desire comes from God. That character comes from God. Yeah. And so, we appeal on account of, or on the grounds of Grace. Thus far. Your hands have fashioned me.

You are the one who has made me, what I am, thus far. We, we appeal on the grounds of Grace, thus forgiven for more grace. Now, to be given Give me understanding that. I may learn. Your Commandments. And in this way. We might be objects of his grace that those, who fear Him those who are also.

Depending upon his grace, might look and see how gracious God is. By his Mercy, even as such people as we are. And be gladdened and they might see that even Even when we are afflicted, God is being Faithful to us, I know o Yahweh, that your judgments are right and that in faithfulness you have Afflicted, me sometimes, there are other believers who are going through difficult things.

And it's helpful for them for us to be able to tell them things from our own experience like verse. seven before I was afflicted. I went astray, but now, I keep your word in verse 71. It is good for me. That I have been Afflicted that I may learn your statutes and now in this week's stanza, Verse 75, I know, Yahweh that your judgments are right and that in faithfulness, you have Afflicted me.

So that we can make appeal to God's character. The way we did that back in in last week's teams in verse 68, you are good and do good. Okay, so if I'm being Afflicted, yes evil men intend evil things but the good God always intends, what is good and always does what is good.

And here he focuses, especially on the steadfast, love the Covenant love of God, which is doubled in verse 76. Translated merciful kindness here and the compassions of God. Which just translated in verse 77 Tender Mercies. And so he says I know y'all know your judgments are right, that in faithfulness you have Afflicted me and then he prays that God's Own character.

Would be what comforts him. What gives him life that God's Own law would be what Delights him. So let I pray your Covenant loves be for my comfort. Let your tender Mercies. Come that I may live your law is my delight. And this would especially help us as we're trying to comfort and gladden and encourage other believers who are under Affliction.

Because our comfort and our life and our Delight did not come from particular things in the circumstance. Or changes to our particular circumstance. Our comfort came from the Covenant loves of God. Those were there before we reflected those were there after we Afflicted. Those were there in the midst of our Affliction.

Life came from The Tender. Mercies the compassions of God. Our Delight came from the word of God. And it's helpful for those who cannot see the way to gladness or Comfort. Or life or Delight from where they are. For us to be able to tell them. The God that you have as the same.

God, who, when I was in circumstances in which I could not find any of these things, It turned out that he is the one. In whom, There is gladness in whom, there is comfort in whom there is life. In whose law, there is delight. The proud. However, Those who are not, depending upon God, those who don't feel the Affliction in themselves.

They are actually the ones who are on the Shaky Ground. And it will give way beneath them. And they will not be able to stand. They will be ashamed. It is the one who meditates on the Lord's precepts. The one who meditates on these precepts that are God's Own communication of himself to us.

These are the ones that will not be ashamed. Those who depend upon anything else and therefore, their morality is an expression of themselves and what they depend upon rather than an expression of what God is like in his character, whatever it is that they are resting upon. Will not hold up.

They will be ashamed. They will be put to shame. But we desire from God. That he would hold us up. Not only so that we would be held up, although he loves us, and he cares for us to be preserved and to stand to survive. And to thrive, But also, as we already said in verses 79 through 80.

One of the reasons. verse 80. That we want even our hearts, not just our ways, but our hearts to be kept to blameless so that we would not be ashamed. One of the reasons we don't want to be ashamed. Is because we want those who fear Him verse 79.

To be able to turn to us, those who know, his testimonies to be able to turn to us and say Yes, God is faithful. Others who have known his testimonies others who have feared him. Have been held up have been preserved, have been established and protected, they were not put to shame.

We shall not be either. The scripture does this for us, doesn't it like in Hebrews 11 where it gives the list of people who did such Victorious things as getting torn by wild beasts and being sawn into But God was faithful. And God did not put them to shame and we are going to inherit together with them.

And they are, they make an appearance in the next chapter as The Souls of the just made perfect. Did they gain or lose by being torn by wild beasts that Souls of the just were made perfect? They gained. That they gain or lose. By being sawn into They gained The Souls of the just were made, perfect.

And they shall be resurrected. And so we, we desire for God to sustain us according to his own character. Not only for our good, But also for the gladdening and the strengthening of other, To whom God could say, look at how my grace Prevailed in his life in her life.

And we can assure others, not see how I made it through. But see how full of Covenant love. God has been see how compassionate God has been See how steady and delight giving his word has been. He has been gracious, he will continue to be gracious. So what do Believers desire?

with each other. We desire to be a blessing to each other. Gladdening and strengthening and being examples of God's grace. To one another. Spray. Our Father in heaven, we realized We read and think through this portion of Psalm 119. How selfish our thoughts have often been that we did not give thought to what you might be doing even for others by sustaining us upon your own character.

We do confess that in faithfulness. You have Afflicted us by turning. Away from ourselves and our circumstances to you in whom alone, there could be hope we praise you. That in you is not just the only hope, but is abundant and divine hope. For you are full of steadfast love.

And you are tenderly compassionate. And your words, do give to light. And so we pray your spirit would give us to look to you. To desire these things. We thank you. That you have been faithful. And gracious in other. Believers lives. To whose example we can look And be glad and be reassured.

Even as we turn and find from your word, that according to, which qve acted in their life. Lives that according to, which you are acting in our life. And so write the truths of your word on our hearts and make us sure of everything that you say. And give us to.

Your steadfast love and your compassion. For, we ask it all in, Christ's name. Amen.