

Learning from Affliction – Part 5

Introduction

- Who would say that affliction is good?
- Why would someone say that being afflicted is good?
- When is affliction good?
- How is affliction good?
- Where is affliction good?

I. Discernment of Good

A. General (“It is good”)

Discernment (ἀνακρίνω) means to examine, investigate or judge (Ac. 4:9). Believers have the ability to correctly discern right/wrong & good/bad (1Co. 2:14-16). The Psalmist has concluded that God is good & does good (v. 68).

B. Personal (“for me”)

*Goodness has to be experienced personally. The believer must be fully convinced of God’s intentions for **good** in all of life’s circumstances (Rom. 8:28) – “And we know”. Believers who have personal experience with God’s goodness are fully convinced of it (Ps. 34:8; 1Pe. 2:3).*

II. Application of Good

A. Things that are considered good

Examples: Land (Ex. 3:8), understanding (Ps. 111:10), news (Pr. 15:30), name (Ec. 7:1), servant (Mt. 25:21), heart (Lk. 8:15), reputation (Ac. 6:3), conduct (Rom. 13:3), courage (2Co. 5:6), words (Eph. 4:29), conscience (1Tim. 1:5), confession (1Tim. 6:12), spiritual fight (2Tim. 4:7), deeds (1Pe. 2:12), stewards (1Pe. 4:10) & health (3Jn. 2).

B. Affliction is considered good

Who is able to honestly make this confession? Jesus learned from suffering (Heb. 5:8). Paul learned from suffering (Phil. 4:11). James learned from trials (Jas. 1:2-4). A believer who has learned to grow in love for God & people can honestly confess, “It is good for me that I was afflicted”. (Rom. 5:1-5).