

Comfort in Affliction

Psalm 119:49-50

God's Special Revelation to His People

- A source of happiness to those who walk in it
- Produces holiness in those who obey it
- Is sufficient for instruction and training
- Opens eyes & Renews hearts
- Produces perseverance
- Reveals the mercy & salvation of the Lord
- Provides comfort and hope in God for those who trust Him
- Makes affliction instructive and chastening

Psalm 119

The Psalmist is convinced of the superiority and sufficiency of God's word, while at the same time being convinced of his own need for God's mercy

This psalm is a plea for God's help to walk according to His Word!

The Word of God is the only sufficient source of life-giving hope and comfort in every kind of affliction.

Psalms 119:49-50

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant,
In which You have made me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction,
That Your word has revived me.

Psalm 119:49-50

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant,
In which You have made me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction,
That Your word has revived me.

The Reality of Affliction

Affliction

Hebrew: oniy (on-ee)

Definition: affliction, misery, depression, poverty, to be bowed down.

A general term, used broadly (36 times) in the Old Testament to describe various kinds of affliction, pain, and suffering.

The Reality of Affliction

only (on-ee)

- Slavery/ Oppression/ Exile (Exodus 3:7, Lam 1:3)
- Poverty & the associated difficulties (Job 36:15, Ps 107:41)
- Physical pain & the suffering associated with loss (Job 30:16)
- The painful experience of infertility (1 Sam 1:11, Gen 16:11, Gen 29:32)
- The pain of being cursed and betrayed (2 Sam 16:11)
- Facing death or the possibility of death (Ps 119:92, Ps 107:10)

The Personal Experience of Affliction

- (vs 5-6) His own lack of steadfastness and shame
- (22-23) In scorn, contempt, when slandered
- (25) When laid low
- (28) When weary w/ sorrow
- (36) When fighting selfishness & fleshly desires
- (37) Battling temptation
- (39) Deserving disgrace
- (42, 51) Taunted & mocked
- (52) Experiencing injustice
- (61) Bound by the wicked
- (69) Lied to or lied about
- (73) Lacking understanding
- (78) Wronged without cause
- (81-84) Waiting on the Lord while He seems to tarry
- (84-85) Enemies dig pitfalls & justice is not done
- (87, 92, 109) Facing death or the possibility of dying
- (105) Experiencing darkness
- (107) In much suffering
- (123) Unable to see the fulfillment of God's promises
- (126) God's law is broken
- (132) In desperate need of God's mercy
- (133) Fighting his own sin that wants to rule over him
- (134) Oppressed by men
- (141) Lonely & despised
- (143) In trouble & distress
- (161) Persecuted w/out cause
- (176) Straying like a lost sheep

The Effects of the Fall

- When laid low
- When weary w/ sorrow
- Waiting on the Lord while He seems to tarry
- Facing death or the possibility of dying
- Experiencing darkness
- In much suffering
- Unable to see the fulfillment of God's promises
- Infertility
- Physical Pain
- Poverty

The Sins of Others

- Bound by the wicked
- Lied to or lied about
- Wronged without cause
- Enemies dig pitfalls & justice is not done
- God's law is broken
- Oppressed by men
- Lonely & despised
- Persecuted w/out cause
- In scorn, contempt, when slandered
- Taunted & mocked
- Experiencing injustice

Your Own Sin

- In desperate need of God's mercy
- Fighting his own sin that wants to rule over him
- Lacking understanding
- A lack of steadfastness and resulting shame
- When fighting selfishness & fleshly desires
- Battling temptation
- Deserving disgrace
- Straying like a lost sheep

The Word of God is the only sufficient source of life-giving hope and comfort in every kind of affliction.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope

⁴⁹ **Remember** the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.

"Remember"

Hebrew: zakar (zaw-kar)

Definition: call to mind, bring to remembrance, celebrate, or invoke

It means to call something to mind so that it affects present action...

To remember something, in order to do it or keep it...

It means to consider something in a way that it affects your disposition...

To remember in this sense, is to act upon what you recall...

(Exodus 2:23-24)

the sons of Israel ...cried out... and God **remembered** His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(Exodus 3:8)

“So I have come down **to deliver them...** and
to bring them... to a good and spacious land...

When the Lord remembered Israel, it meant he was acting on the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – He was fulfilling the word He spoke.

(Jeremiah 31:34) ..."I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will **remember no more.**"

(Isaiah 34:25) "I am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and **I will not remember your sins.**"

When the Lord chooses to not remember our sins, He is not forgetting them, but He is no longer taking action against us because of them, and they no longer affect His disposition toward us.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it

⁴⁹ **Remember** the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it

⁴⁹ Remember **the word** to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.

“the Word”

Hebrew: dabar (daw-baw)

Definition: Speech, or word

Especially formal, explicit, intentional, spoken words; such as the Ten Commandments or “Ten Words” (Exodus 20:1)

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's character and covenant promises to His people

⁴⁹Remember **the word** to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's character and covenant promises to His people

⁴⁹Remember **the word** to Your servant, **in which** You have made me hope.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's character and covenant promises to His people

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant, in which **You have made me hope.**

“hope”

Hebrew: yachal (yaw-chal)

Definition: (V) to wait expectantly, await in anticipation

To be hoping in this sense is to be actively placing your confidence in something, to be trusting in it, and to be counting on it.

You are always hoping in something...

What are your responses saying about where your hope is?

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's character and covenant promises to His people

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant, in which **You** have made me hope.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's character and covenant promises to His people

⁴⁹ Remember the word **to Your servant**, in which You have made me hope.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's character and covenant promises to His people

⁴⁹ Remember the word **to Your servant**, in which You have made me hope.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's promises to His people
- God's Word gives comfort

⁵⁰ This is **my comfort** in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's promises to His people
- God's Word gives comfort
 - Real, personal, specific comfort

⁵⁰ This is **my comfort** in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's promises to His people
- God's Word gives comfort
 - Real, personal, specific comfort
 - Comfort during the affliction

50 This is my comfort **in my affliction**, That Your word has revived me.

What comfort is there during affliction?

- The Lord uses affliction to instruct us and chasten us (Ps 119:67, 71, 75)
- The Lord promises you that you can resist temptation (1 Cor 10:13)
- The Lord has promised to cause all things (including affliction) to work for our good by sanctifying us (Romans 8:28-29)
- Our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the future glory to be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)
- Nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39)

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's promises to His people
- God's Word gives comfort
 - Real, personal, specific comfort
 - Comfort during the affliction
- God's Word gives life

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction, That **Your word has revived me.**

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's promises to His people
- God's Word gives comfort
 - Real, personal, specific comfort
 - Comfort during the affliction
- God's Word gives life
 - In Creation (Gen 1, Job 33) & In the New Birth (Ezek 37, Rom 10:17, 2 Cor 4, Eph 2)

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction, That **Your word has revived me.**

Comfort in Affliction

- God's Word gives cause for our hope
 - Because God is faithful to His own word and He *will* remember to act according to it
 - Because it reveals God's promises to His people
- God's Word gives comfort
 - Real, personal, specific comfort
 - Comfort during the affliction
- God's Word gives life
 - In Creation (Gen 1, Job 33) & In the New Birth (Ezek 37, Rom 10:17, 2 Cor 4, Eph 2)
 - By restoring & sanctifying believers (John 15:3, John 17:17, Rom 10:17, 2 Cor 3:18, Psalm 119)

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction, That **Your word has revived me.**

Reflection Questions

- When you experience affliction of any kind, where do you turn for comfort? What are you hoping in?
- What does it look like to actively hope (to be presently hoping) in God's word? How is this different from simply knowing what He has promised?
- Can you say with the psalmist that you are the "Lord's servant"? That His word has "made you alive"?
 - If so, that is, if you are united to Christ by faith, then His word gives you cause for hope and life-giving comfort in any affliction.
 - If you do not belong to Him, that is, if you are not trusting in Christ, then you have no claim to the promises He has made in His word, and no reason for hope or comfort in affliction.

Comfort in Affliction

Psalm 119:49-50