

Lord, Why Am I Afflicted?

“I am afflicted very much; revive me, O Lord, according to Your word.”

Psalm 119:107



Number 56 in the series “The Joy of Obeying God’s Word”

Beloved, some of you are greatly afflicted right now. Your affliction may be physical, mental, or financial. It may be your marriage, a rebellious child, or the loss of a loved one. It could be bondage to sin, depression, loneliness—the list of afflictions is endless. You need help, hope, love, comfort, and encouragement.

Jesus wants to be your best Friend. True and lasting help comes from Him and the Bible. I talk from experience with years of every kind of affliction. Before I was a believer and since I put my trust in Jesus, I have had a lot of affliction. I do not have the words to express my gratefulness to God for His AMAZING GRACE towards me.

The Lord constantly uses my afflictions for His glory. Every year I travel to other states or other countries teaching God’s Word. I have been to Germany seven times and I taught every day while there. A few times, it was three or four times a day, but most of the time, I taught five times a day: twice in the morning, twice in the afternoon, and once in the evening. Many people have asked me, “How can you do that?” My answer is simple: love for Jesus, obedience to His Word, and GOD’S AMAZING GRACE. I am not so young any more. I have several health problems, and I do not enjoy traveling; however, my life is not about me. It is about glorifying Jesus Christ. As I obey Him, He uses all the pain and suffering in my life to help others. Second Corinthians 1 tells us to comfort others in

their time of need as Christ comforts us, and that is exactly what I do. Beloved, I want to encourage you to allow Jesus to help you in your afflictions, and then allow Him to work through you to help others.

Years ago when I taught God’s Word for two weeks in Michigan, I had the opportunity to glorify Jesus in my afflictions. I was scheduled to teach 28 times in two weeks, and that was in one church. I loved it. I could talk 24 hours a day about my love for Christ and His faithfulness towards me. I have no life apart from Him. Daily, I read and obey my Bible. I only teach what I daily live, and because I have experienced the power of Jesus to use all of my afflictions, I want to encourage others to see their afflictions as a means to get closer to Jesus and to help others.

When Paul prayed in 2 Corinthians 12:9 to have his afflictions removed from his life, Jesus said, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”* Paul saw Jesus’ strength in his weaknesses, and I experience the same thing. Beloved, so can you. Surrender your life to Christ and experience His strength in your weakness.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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