

# The *Psalms*

Songs to Keep Your Life in Tune



## Finding Blessings in Our Troubles

Psalm 119:65-80



Message Guide | October 11, 2020

# Finding Blessings in Our Troubles

Today's Message (11 October 2020) / Psalm 119:65-80

*If you are going through a very difficult time right now, may your troubles make you turn and return to God. May you find blessing after blessing, in all your troubles.*

Is there any value at all in our hardest struggles? It's a hard question for those in the very midst of it, who are being overwhelmed by it. But our passage assures us, that yes, there are blessings in our hardest struggles! What unites these two stanzas in the longest chapter of psalms, is the idea that the psalmist's struggles turned out to be blessings for him. There are at least three ways that your struggles can become blessings for you:

## 1. OUR TROUBLES MAKE US RETURN TO GOD

*Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.*

- How is a return to God seen in real life? When we start reading and keeping God's Word again or more fervently than ever. By affliction God separates the sin that He hates from the soul which He loves.

## 2. OUR TROUBLES MAKE US TREASURE THE WORD OF GOD

*Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes.*

- For the psalmist, it is worth enduring affliction, if we learn the statutes of God in the process. This makes a time of painful affliction worthwhile. If we would be learners we must be sufferers. As Spurgeon said "God's commands are often best read by eyes wet with tears".
- We must not assume that seasons of pain automatically make us better or godlier. Sad to say, some become *worse* from affliction – because they fail to turn to God's Word for wisdom and guidance during those times.



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## 3. OUR TROUBLES MAKE US KNOW AND WORSHIP GOD

*Psalm 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.*

- The psalmist's devotion to God's word gave him a wise perspective about suffering. He could proclaim the rightness of God's rules even while he was afflicted.
- It's good when you can say "God has the right to do with me as He pleases." But it is far greater to say "your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me". David learned that lesson after much self-caused pain (2 Samuel 16:11-12).

How should we respond to troubles and afflictions then? We see this in the rest of the psalmist's words:

- 1) Pray and ask God to teach you and give you understanding of His Word (vv. 66, 68, 73).
- 2) Prioritize the Word of God in your heart and life (vv. 70, 72, 77)
- 3) Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (vv. 74, 79; 2 Timothy 2:2). Be with the right people in your hardest times. Many of us do the opposite and withdraw themselves from God's people.

## Final Thoughts

May we be able to say, like the psalmist, "*It is good for me that I was afflicted...*" because "*in faithfulness You have afflicted me*". If you are going through a very difficult time right now, may your troubles make you turn and return to God. May you find blessing after blessing, in all your troubles. ■

## GROUP/FAMILY Discussion Questions

1. Of the three blessings mentioned that we gain from our struggles, which one is the most meaningful to you. Why?
2. "Appreciating affliction" is definitely a strange concept. Give at least one other passage that speaks of the same theme, and explain it.
3. What are some trends in Christian churches today that tend to lower the emphasis and importance of God's Word? What is your take on these trends (harmful or helpful)?
4. Pray together, and ask God to heal anyone in the group/family going through a hard struggle right now. Pray that this drives him/her to the Lord and His Word.

# The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Migs Orleans

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To the congregation at home,

On this day that we gather virtually as the body of Christ, are you excited to sing? In this continuing season of crisis which has inevitably changed Sunday community worship, has it become difficult to sing with the worship team?

These past 8 months, if you were having a hard time, so did I. If you still have a hard time, if I may share from my heart even more, so do I. With the absence of perhaps a more collective response from the rest of the church family, I am sure that I speak for some or even most: congregational singing is and will no longer be the same.

For both the worship leader and the worshipper, the technical aspects of this holy act of singing and making music to the Lord have become non-negotiables. A certain song leader will need a recording device, a device that plays music, a quiet part of his/her home, and a decent pair of earphones—so that he/she can submit a file for audio mixing.

The process then becomes an editing exercise, to ensure that the video and audio is of communicable quality. Meanwhile, the worship leaders who are band members continue in this time of forced rest.

As for the worshipping congregant – stable internet, a working screen, and audible sound – have become as crucial as a normal speaking and singing voice, together with a digital or printed Bible.

With all the Biblical principles and perspectives that can keep us hopeful, I would like to share only one point of encouragement that has touched my heart time and again: we sing to an Audience of One. The Lord is the sole recipient of worship offered in spirit and in truth. It is He Who we ask to search us and know our hearts.

To speak psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is with one another—for His pleasure. In this persisting pandemic where heart and flesh may fail, God is our strength and portion forever. As we will sing once more on this day: “Christ, our hope, in life and death.”

Hang in there, friend. If there is a reason to keep praying, then we definitely have a reason to keep singing. The same God, Who hears our prayer – is the same God, Who hears our songs. Perhaps the added blessing, in such a time as this is to sing in worship with our families like never before. Informal, yet more personal. Limited, yet more intimate.

Then, in the Lord's time, our in-person collective singing to the Audience of One will be even more heartfelt. ■

# CHURCH UPDATES

## ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Church members can visit [election.gcf.org.ph](http://election.gcf.org.ph) for information and updates, or email [election@gcf.org.ph](mailto:election@gcf.org.ph) for specific queries

## BELONGING (Midweek Series): *Building Up One Another*

October 14 (Wed), 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

## REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

## LIVestream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on [youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive](https://youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive)

## KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. on Facebook at [@GCFKidsLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/GCFKidsLIFE)

## THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. via Zoom

## Men and Women of Faith (MWF) Couples GROWTH GROUP

Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.-9:45 p.m., via Google Meet, with Elder Rommel Yazon

## GCF SMALL GROUP TRAINING AND PRECEPT PHILIPPINES

### *An Inductive Bible Study on Mark 7-13*

October 11 (Sundays), 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

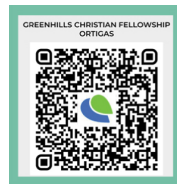
# WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

## BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **Metrobank** (Ortigas Sapphire Branch)  
Savings Account 000661590216 Savings Account 629-3-62919733-9
- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**  
Savings Account 1112-02006218 (Scan QR code below)
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)  
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
- **Robinsons Bank** (Main Office Branch)  
Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**  
(Ortigas Emerald Branch)  
Peso Savings Account  
Account name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.  
Account No.: 9823 0217 01



## CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL

Please visit [www.gcf.org.ph/give](http://www.gcf.org.ph/give) for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to [finance@gcf.org.ph](mailto:finance@gcf.org.ph) so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



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☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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