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PSALM 119:67

Psalms 119:67 says, ***"Before I was afflicted, I went astray. But now I have kept thy word."***

This shows a process of going astray into a world of sin or of indifference to God. The timeline (or steps) goes like this: [1] astray from God, [2] affliction, and [3] a turn to God.

Step #1 says "being astray." This could be somebody never saved or could be one who is either backslidden or who has grown cold in their relationship with God.

Step #2 says "affliction." We usually think of affliction as some kind of trouble that has set upon us that causes us to turn to God. However, in this verse, the Hebrew word for affliction is 'anah and as it is used here it carries a different sense. It is the idea of looking down on self, browbeating, self-abasement, and chastening oneself. In other words, it is conviction brought upon us by the Holy Spirit that unveils the error of our way and draws us to God.

Step #3 is a whole-hearted turn to God. It comes with sorrowful repentance (a penitent heart) and coming into alignment with God and His word, Jesus, the living word, as well as the written word.

Sometimes, we as believers, may become lukewarm like the Laodiceans, or perhaps have lost our first love (zeal) like the Ephesians. If this is the case, then seek the Lord in prayer that you will be revived in your spirit leading to renewal of your love and commitment to the Lord. Let the fire of the Holy Spirit be rekindled in you. Read the Word.