

“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; That I Might Learn Thy Statutes.” Psalms 119:71 KJV

Experience is the best teacher, but it is also the most expensive and painful. The wise learn from another’s experience when possible. We can learn that fire is hot from being burned or by observing another’s scars or pain. *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* Faith is the GIFT of God delivered to us by the



Word of God which enables us to learn from God. *“For by Grace are ye saved through faith, and that NOT of yourselves; it is the GIFT of God. Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God. The entrance of Thy Words giveth Light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. For we walk by faith not by sight.”* If we live by faith instead of human reason, we will find Peace and Joy our continual companions. In today’s text the Psalmist says afflictions which teach us to obey God’s Word are good. *“ALL THINGS work together FOR GOOD to them that love God.”* We learn from reaping, what not to sow. Many of us, myself included, are painfully slow learners. It wasn’t until God put me flat on my back, took all my abilities, and left me helpless that I learned of His great Love and Provision, and His desire to implement them on my behalf. I still struggle with moments of doubt (Satan is always a willing helper in that respect), but I am learning to be content with the Lord’s timing and provision. Paul writes, *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. I have LEARNED, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* Learning is the byproduct of failure and the determined purpose not to fail again. We best learn by doing. It is the doing that eventually leads to success. *“I can do ALL through Christ (God’s Word) which strengtheneth me.”* If God’s Word is the measure of your choices, your success will be good! *“This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have GOOD success.”* If there is GOOD success, there is BAD success. You can be successful at evil or good; your choice.

We always harvest what we sow,
Which teaches us the things we know,
If God’s Word is the Seed that’s sown,
The Truth will be the harvest known. –CGP

Have you learned Truth from your afflictions? Do you obey it or have you rebelled against it, somehow holding God responsible for the harvest YOU planted? God’s Word plainly teaches us of the Truth; we can either be successful at obedience or successful at disobedience, but our choice determines our harvest, not God’s! Knowing and doing are two entirely different things! *“If ye know these things, happy are ye IF YE DO THEM!”*

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.” Proverbs 9:9-10 KJV