

Text: Ps 119.73-80

We turn once again to Psalm 119 for our communion service.

Our stanza begins with these words:

Your Hands Made Me

In this section, every verse begins with the letter *yodh*, which you might think of as the “jot” — the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

The psalmist in this section expresses a mature relationship with God. This spirit is the fruit of walking with God and accepting the lessons of God’s word.

The verses address the old problem of evil. I know that man began questioning God in the Garden, but men have questioned the goodness of God for many years.

Why are there wars?

Why is there pain?

What about evil?

Men wonder how a good God can rule over a world where pain and evil and disasters and hate are regular parts of it.

The Psalmist knows the answer to these questions, and he asks God to help him make a difference in his world.

I. The mature man of understanding (73-74)**A. Confidence in his maker (73)****1. An echo of Gen 2.7**

Gn 2.7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

2. Purpose: made for understanding (and a prayer)**B. Concern for his ministry (74)****1. He wants to be an example to God-fearers****2. He wants to be known for reliance on God’s word**

II. Certainty in affliction (75)

- A. Confidence in God who judges
- B. Confidence in God's faithfulness in affliction

III. Plea to the shepherd (76-78)

- A. Call for lovingkindness (76)
- B. Prayer for compassion (77)
- C. Plea for protection (78)

In all of this, he pledges his devotion to God's word and his meditation on his precepts.

IV. Prayer for ministry (79-80)

- A. He prays to minister to those who fear God (79)
- B. He prays for a blameless heart in all his troubles (80)

Conclusion:

When someone is born again, he or she might not be fully mature spiritually. The picture we have in this stanza is someone who has come to the place where he is resting on God in his afflictions and hoping to use them to minister to others.

This spirit comes through time. The disciple isn't looking for escape, but endurance. Not for relief but revelation or teaching – so he may teach others.

This is a fruit of redemption and faithfulness.

You might think you can't handle afflictions. God allows you to experience the pain you are going through, and he will give you a way out. But for faith to grow, it must be put under strain. God doesn't allow you to suffer afflictions you can't handle.

God does allow you to suffer affliction to become a comfort to others.