



## Psalm 119:73-80 “Compassionate Restoration”

### Intro:

As we saw last week, God’s discipline is not a sign of rejection but of love. As His children, there are times when God allows us to feel the weight and consequences of our sin — not to destroy us, but to lead us to repentance and restore us to Himself. But here is the beautiful truth about our faithful Savior: **He doesn’t leave His children in the affliction of discipline forever.** Yes, God humbles us. Yes, He corrects us. But He does not abandon us or crush us. After discipline always comes **His comfort**, and after correction comes **restoration**. This section of Psalm 119 connects naturally with the previous passage and paints a beautiful picture of what restoration looks like after discipline. It shows us two intertwined realities: (1.) the **compassionate and faithful character of God**, our Restorer, and (2.) the **pathway of obedience** the believer must walk as God restores him. Restoration is fully the work of God’s grace — yet it is also a path the believer must obediently walk. And that is how we will observe this passage: by looking first at **The Character of Our Restorer**, and then at **The Pathway of Restoration** He calls us to walk.

### V. 73-80

“Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me *understanding*, so that I may *learn* Your commandments. May those who fear You see me and be glad, Because I *wait* for Your word. I know, Lord, that Your judgments are *righteous*, And that You have afflicted me in *faithfulness*. May Your favor *comfort* me, *According to Your word* to Your servant. May Your *compassion* come to me so that I may live, For Your Law is my delight. “May the arrogant be put to shame, because they lead me astray with a lie; But I shall *meditate* on Your precepts. May *those who fear You turn to me*, And those who know Your testimonies. *May my heart be blameless in Your statutes*, So that I will not be ashamed.”

### The Character of My Restorer:

1. **Hands On:** “Your hands made me and fashioned me...” (V.73) Our God is not distant or detached. Though He is sovereign and exalted, He is also personal and hands-on. He did not outsource our creation or treat us as an afterthought — He lovingly formed us with His own hands, shaping every detail with intention. The same hands that made us are the hands that restore us. This reminds us that restoration is a deeply personal act of God. Passages to consider: Psalm 139:13-16, Psalm 22:9-11, Isaiah 64:8.
2. **Righteous:** “I know, Lord, that Your judgments are righteous...”(V.75) Everything God does is right. None of His decisions are careless, sinful, or unjust. Even when His discipline feels painful, it is never wrong. We may not always understand His ways, but we can always trust His righteousness. God never disciplines out of sin or bitterness — His judgments are always perfect and good and a sign of His faithfulness. Passages to consider: Deuteronomy 32:4
3. **Faithful:** “...You have afflicted me in faithfulness.” (V.75) This phrase is one of the most beautiful in the passage. Even affliction, when it comes from God, is an act of faithfulness. God disciplines us not because He hates us, but because He is faithful to finish His work in us. His correction is evidence that He has not given up on us. Passages to consider: 2 Timothy 2:11-13,
4. **Comforter:** “May Your favor comfort me...” (V.76) God does not discipline and then withdraw. He disciplines and then draws near. After correction comes comfort. God binds the wounds He allows, and He restores what was broken with gentleness and care. Passages to consider: Psalm 71:19-23
5. **Compassionate:** “May Your compassion come to me so that I may live...” (V.77) God’s heart is full of steadfast love and tender mercy. Discipline never cancels His compassion. Even when He corrects us, He does so with tenderness. His goal is our repentance and restoration for His Glory. We must never confuse God’s correction with a lack of love — His compassion is the very reason He disciplines us. Passages to consider: Micah 7:18-19

The Pathway to Restoration:

1. **Understand and Learn:** “Give me understanding, so that I may learn Your commandments.” (V.73) When we fall into sin and suffer the consequences, it reveals that we were not listening to God’s Word. We believed our feelings, our desires, or the lies of the enemy instead of the Word of God. So the first step in restoration is not trying harder, it is coming back to God’s Word and asking Him to teach us. To help us understand where we went wrong, what lies we believed, and how His Word should shape our decisions moving forward. If God is restoring us, then we must be willing to learn and seek to understand.
2. **Wait:** “Because I wait for Your word.” (V.74) One of the hardest parts of restoration is waiting. When we are broken, hurting, or ashamed, we want things to be fixed immediately. We want relief, answers, and clarity right away. And instead of waiting on God, we often rush ahead in our own strength and end up repeating the same patterns. The psalmist shows us a better way — waiting on God’s Word. Trusting that God will guide, speak, and restore in His time. Waiting is not doing nothing; waiting is choosing not to move ahead without God. Restoration takes time, and rushing it usually leads us back into the same mess. So we wait and we trust God’s Word.
3. **Meditate:** “But I shall meditate on Your precepts.” (V.78) Our mind is the battlefield, and our heart is the throne. What we allow ourselves to think about and dwell on in our minds will eventually rule our lives. During seasons of restoration, this becomes especially important. If we continue to dwell on lies or worldly desires, we will never truly heal. That’s why the psalmist chooses to meditate on God’s Word. Scripture is the only thing with the power to renew our minds and cleanse us from the lies we have believed. Restoration requires renewing the mind with with The Truth — and that only happens when we intentionally meditate on God’s Word and let it reshape how we think.
4. **Be United:** (verse 79) in The NLT version reads “let me be united with all who fear you, with those who know your laws”. Restoration is not meant to be walked out alone. God designed us to heal, grow, and mature within the body of Christ. Many times, one of the first things people do after falling into sin is isolate themselves — from church, from fellowship, from accountability. But true restoration pulls us back into community. We need worship, fellowship, service, and the encouragement of other believers. We must let go of friendships that pull us toward the world and unite ourselves again with those who fear God. Healing happens in community, not isolation.
5. **Seek Integrity:** “May my heart be blameless in Your statutes...” (V.80) This might be the most important part of the pathway. Restoration is not just about outward behavior — it is about the heart. A person can go through all the right motions and still have a divided heart. God wants us to seek to live life of integrity. He wants the throne of our heart back. True restoration happens when Christ reigns again in our hearts — As Jesus taught in the sermon of the mount, it is not enough for actions to look right if the heart is still far from God.

**Conclusion:**

Read Psalm 103

**Main Idea:**

After discipline, God does not leave us broken—He compassionately restores us, through repentance and obedience, and leads us back through His Word.

**Memory Verse:**

I know, Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, And that You have afflicted me in faithfulness. May Your favor comfort me, *According to Your word to Your servant.* Psalm 119:75-76



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