



JULY 20-25, 2020
SESSION 5: PSALM 119:65-96

HOMEWORK (one hour of your choice)

OPENING THOUGHTS

What experience have you had with surgery?

What was the purpose of the surgery?

How long was your recovery?

In what ways did the surgery benefit you in the long term?

Surgery always requires a doctor to inflict harm in order to create long-term health. Yet, the doctor is not considered cruel. Rather, he or she is committed to removing what would ultimately threaten the livelihood of a patient. God acts in much the same way in our lives, as we'll see in today's session.

READ

Psalm 119:65-96

WATCH

Session 5 Video (17 minutes)

ANSWER

(DISCUSSION PREP)

Matt describes five benefits in this passage.

1. Benefit of God redeeming our suffering for spiritual surgery. Read verses 65–72.

As Matt pointed out, it's important to see that the context of these statements involves the personal suffering David experienced. Verses 67, 69, and 71 indicate various forms of pain for which David praises God because of their benefit to his soul.

What did Matt mean when he said “God does not drive an ambulance”? (Our suffering does not surprise God. He never arrives after the fact to pick up the pieces.)

How does the idea of God as a “surgeon” strike you? In what ways does it reshape the way He can use the suffering you experience for good?

Take a minute to reflect on your relationship with Christ.

How has God used suffering in your life to draw you into a deeper relationship with Him? What has He taught you during those times?



A life fully surrendered to God reorients the way we view suffering. It also opens our eyes to how God designed us to participate in His mission of redemption throughout the world.

2. Benefit of learning our purposeful design in God's mission. Read verses 73–80.

**According to verse 73, who “makes” and “fashions” us?
What does David ask of God as a result of his declaration?
(For understanding to learn God's commandments)**

So there's a connection between God's design and our purpose. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the truth of God's handiwork and gives us a right understanding of our purposes in His mission based on that design, which includes both our physical bodies and our internal personalities.

What are some of the unique qualities God has given to you?

How has He presented you with opportunities to use those qualities for His glory?

Not only does a life surrendered to God redeem our experience with suffering, it also opens our eyes to the purposeful role God desires for us to play in His redeeming work. In addition to these, David draws our attention to perhaps the greatest benefit of all—God Himself.

3. Benefit of receiving God Himself and all His attributes. Read again verses 73–80.

We've talked in previous sessions about God being the true treasure of our faith, but by receiving God we also receive His attributes. **As you read through this passage, what attributes of God do you see David list?**

Which attribute stands out to you the most? How have you experienced it in your own life?

In addition to receiving God's personal attributes, we are also invited into the believing community of the Church, the body of Christ. **How has belonging to a community of believers deepened your walk with Christ? What are the benefits of authentic relationships with other believers?**

The final two benefits Matt mentioned go hand in hand. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are brought into a relationship with Him that provides an unshakeable hope that regularly rejuvenates our weary souls.

4. *Benefit of embracing an unshakeable hope. Read verses 81–88.*

How do these verses demonstrate David's hope in God through His Word?

How have you experienced hope in times of difficulty and uncertainty? How do those past experiences help to strengthen your hope today?

What did Matt point to as the assurance of our hope? (God's long history of faithfulness to His people, culminating in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ)

5. *Benefit of experiencing repeated rejuvenation. Read verses 89–96.*

Which of these verses stands out to you as demonstrating David's rejuvenation through God's Word?

Matt said that the soul that does not trust in God can drown and become easily overwhelmed, but for those who have trusted in Christ we remain held and protected by the God of the universe. **What are some of the ways you have experienced God's rejuvenating work in your life?**

What are some passages of Scripture that refresh your heart?

How should the truth that the rejuvenating power of God is inexhaustible impact the way you pursue Him going forward?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Each day this week, make it a point to ask that God would use the circumstances of your life to create in you a greater dependence upon Him.

Write: On a single page of paper, write down the five benefits Matt listed that come from a life surrendered to God. Select the one you'd most like to grow in and spend some time each day this week asking God to mature you in that area.

Connect: Reach out to a believer who exhibits greater maturity in the "benefit" you'd like to grow in. Schedule some time to get together and talk with him or her about how God has matured them in that area of their spiritual journey.

Listen: Make time to meet with a believer you know that has experienced suffering and found deeper intimacy with God as result. Ask him or her about that process as well as how to trust God in the midst of difficulty.

List: Write out a list of the unique gifts God has given to you. Underneath each one, write 2–3 ways you could use that gift to serve someone in your life. Pick one of those opportunities for service and act on it at some point over the next week.

GROUP MEETING

Zoom (Saturday, July 25, 9-10pm)

