

# He May Murmur and Struggle at First

by Thomas Brooks

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*Thomas Brooks emphasizes that affliction serves to draw believers closer to God and purify their hearts.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:67, Psalm 119:71, Romans 5:3

**Topics:** "Affliction", "Spiritual Growth"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that affliction serves as a divine tool to purify and strengthen believers, drawing them closer to God. He reflects on Psalm 119:67, illustrating how trials can lead to spiritual growth and deeper communion with God. Brooks notes that while initial reactions to affliction may include murmuring and struggle, understanding its purpose can lead to acceptance and gratitude, as expressed in Psalm 119:71. Ultimately, afflictions are portrayed as necessary for enhancing one's relationship with God and manifesting His love and grace.

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## Transcript

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now

I obey Your word." Psalm 119:67

Affliction is a fire to purge out our dross, and to make our graces shine. Affliction is the remedy which cures all our spiritual diseases.

By afflictions, God humbles the hearts of His people, and betters the hearts of His people, and draws the hearts of His people nearer and closer to Himself.

"It was good for me to be afflicted." Psalm 119:71

The saints gain by their crosses, troubles, and distresses.

Their graces are more raised,

their fellowship with God is more multiplied,

their comforts are more augmented,  
their communion with God is more heightened.

The grand design of God in all the afflictions  
which befall His people--is to bring them  
nearer and closer to Himself.

When a great affliction arrests a sincere Christian,  
he may murmur and struggle at first; but when  
he considers it as sent from God, to bring him to  
God, the King of glory--he willingly and readily  
submits to the rod, and kisses the rod, saying,  
"It was good for me to be afflicted!" Ps. 119:71

The power of God, the love of God, and the grace  
of God--are most gloriously manifested by bringing  
the hearts of His people nearer and closer to Himself  
by all the troubles, distresses, and dangers which  
attend them. In the winter season, all the sap of the  
tree runs down to the root; just so--in the winter of  
affliction, the soul runs out more and more to  
God, and gets closer and nearer to God!

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/he-may-murmur-and-struggle-at-first/>

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