Hello Valley Heights Ladies! Reviewing our April 10th Bible Study!

***A quick look at “Teth”---Psalm 119: 65-72***

**The Word of God TEACHES us about THE GOODNESS of GOD and how WE CAN BEAR GOOD FRUIT!**

Jesus says in John 15:1-2 “ **I AM** the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser (caretaker of the vine)… and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it (cuts away and removes from us anything that delays or drains our spiritual growth) so that it may bear more fruit.”

Even though we have been looking at Psalm 119 as, “a stunning diamond with many facets that has amazed our eyes, stimulated our minds and blessed our hearts,” I also like to think of Psalm 119 as a stable supporting vine that bears incredibly healthy fruit for us to draw nourishment from in our daily walk with Jesus Christ Himself, who is our life!!

Psalm 119’s 22 clusters of 8 verses are all undeniably, *“good nutritious fruit”—*no vitamin deficiencies in this Psalm! We are seeing in every stanza the powerful effect of the Word of God on one who is continually being carefully provided for and providentially pruned! One who is clearly producing fruit through the trials of life because the Word of God has been ***THE*** essential nutrient for her growth and development!

*I like to think of each cluster of 8 verses as a bunch of grapes full of protein*. As our bodies and minds are so dependent upon the essential nutrient of protein, so too our bodies and minds cannot live without every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God! We all know very well that protein enables our body to grow (we become more like Christ), builds strength (endurance and perseverance is produced), fights infections (increases our resistance to sin), repairs tissue( sinful thoughts recognized and “put off” and “Christ-honouring thoughts “put on”) and protein simply helps our bodies to function properly (we become useful citizens for His Kingdom)!!

As we feed on the Word of God daily and as we have been feeding on Psalm 119, I cannot help but ponder and pray that each cluster of 8 verses thus far has been ***sweet*** and ***beneficial*** to your daily health and survival! I know it has for me!

***Proteins have PURPOSE---BUT so do afflictions***!! The theme of this psalm without a doubt is vs.68 “You (LORD) ARE good and DO good.” The Hebrew root word for good is ***tob***. Forms of the word ***tob*** show up six times in this stanza, five of them as the initial word of the line (well, v.65; good, v.66; good, twice in v.68; good, v.71; and better, v.72). We are profoundly impacted by the goodness of God poured out on the psalmist in the midst of his afflictions. *And at the same time* we see the psalmist pour out a paramount declaration in **v.71 “Good it is for me that I was afflicted.”** This is the heart of “Teth!”

I love what Nancy Leigh DeMoss says, “I know that time is short, and eternity is long. How foolish it is to waste the little bit of time I have here on this earth pining and moaning and resenting and resisting the very things God wants to bring into my life to help me become more like Jesus, to help prepare me for eternity!”

One theologian said, “The supreme need in every hour of difficulty and distress is for a fresh vision of God. ***SEEING HIM***—all else takes on proper perspective and proportion.”

Oswald Chambers said it this way, “Our circumstances are the means of manifesting how wonderfully perfect and extraordinary pure the SON of GOD is.”

Ladies, God always determines GOOD for us in and through our trials---that we would “bear more fruit!”

As proteins have PURPOSES, ***God has PURPOSES*** ! His PURPOSES in our trials should produce:

**P URPOSEFUL PONDERING**

Psalm 119:65 lit. “GOOD you have dealt with your servant, O LORD according to Your word.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of THANKFULNESS*** for answering my prayers! Psalm119:17

I WILL be resolved to worship You because of ALL that You have done for me!

**U RGENT PRAYER**

Psalm 119:66 lit. “GOOD discernment and knowledge, TEACH ME, for I believe in Your commands.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of SUBMISSION*** as I plead to know and apply your truths. Prov.2:3

I WILL be resolved to be nourished and assured by Your wisdom in the midst of my trial!

**R ESTRAINT OF OUR FLESH**

Psalm 119:67 “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but NOW I keep Your Word.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of VALUING*** of purging and pruning which now restrains my flesh!

I WILL be resolved to die to self when inward conflicts arise and choose the divine compass of TRUTH!

**P URSUATION OF GOD’S GOODNESS**

Psalm 119:68 lit. “GOOD You are and GOOD you do, TEACH ME Your statutes.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of PATIENCE and TRUST*** as I seek You earnestly. Lam.3:25, Pr.16:20

I Will be resolved to ask God to help me see HIS goodness thru the grid of scripture NOT my emotions!

**O PERATIVE OBEDIENCE**

Psalm 119:69 “ The arrogant… are against me, with all my heart I will observe Your precepts.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of HUMILITY***, accepting Your discipline as a gracious gift. Heb.12:1

I WILL be resolved to preserve and protect Your Word through my obedience in the midst of trials!

**S HEER DELIGHT**

Psalm 119:70 “Their heart is covered with fat, But I delight in Your law.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of JOY*** because Your Word has penetrated my dead heart!

I WILL be resolved to be satisfied and content with knowing You! John 17:3

**E NERGETIC ENDEAVOURS**

Psalm 119:71 lit. “GOOD it is for me that I was afflicted, that I may LEARN Your statutes.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of DILIGENCE*** and a deep hunger to be a faithful student of truth!

I WILL be resolved that Jesus Christ becomes *FIRST PLACE* in everything, even my afflictions! Col.1:18

**S IGNIFICANT SATISFACTION**

Psalm 119:72 lit. “GOOD is to me the law of Your mouth, than … gold and silver pieces.”

Lord, produce in my life the ***FRUIT of SUBMISSION*** to Your divine authority as revealed in scripture!

I WILL be resolved to “set my mind on things above, not on the things that are on earth.” Matt.6:21

AND may we NEVER forget ***DISAPPOINTMENTS*** are ***HISAPPOINTMENTS***—To make us more like Jesus!!

Blessings to you all as you continue to diligently study “Yodh” Psalm 119:73-80 for our April 24th study!

Joyfully, Christyn