

**Divine Discipline: From Painful Questions to Painful Submission**  
**Psalm 39**  
**May 13, 2018**

Benefitting from parental discipline

I do not enjoy God's discipline. (Hebrews 12:4-11)

A good title for this Psalm may be, Growing Pains.

**Painful Questions v 1-6**

"Why are you doing this, Lord? It hurts. I don't understand. I don't agree. I don't need this."

A believers' sincere questions and complaints about God's dealing with them can give the wicked an excuse for their unbelief. (Psalm 73:13-17)

Silence can be golden, and silence can be sin.

He had to speak out in his agony so he spoke to God.

All our troubles look smaller from the distance of eternity.

He was thinking like men, in terms of this life only. And in that context, his affliction did not make any sense.

Now he is comparing the short span of his life to the eternal God. *It is like smelling salt to his un-submissive attitude towards his discipline.*

V 6 The life of the wicked is short and empty and vain.

They live in a perpetual frenzy but they do not know why they live.

**Painful Submission v 7-13**

V 7 What am I waiting for?

I am going to trust God. I am going to wait for him. He is my hope.

V 8 Now he prays in faith

He confesses his sins. He does not blame God.

V 9 is his submission.

He is mute now, but it is due to submission; he knows that God has done it.

V 10 He asks for the affliction to be taken away.

We sometimes ask for the trial to be over before we have learned from it.

V 11 is a summary of divine chastisement

When God comes to separate his children from sin he removes what is precious to them.

V 12 Hear my prayer, my crying and my tears.

I am a traveler with you, a sojourner as all my fathers were.

Look away from me, turn your gaze away. (Job 7:17-21)

Fix your eyes upon Jesus (Hebrews 11:10)

God will discipline you, do not attack Him for it.

Submit to God. Life is short, and meaningless without God.

Trust in your God.