

COMFORT OF GOD

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 "Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ." **NASB**

Keep your eyes on Jesus. In Him, you can have comfort and encouragement.

Verse 3 Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort

God is called the Father of mercies.

Greek for "mercy" is oiktirmos.

It means compassion, pity, mercy.

It is something that is felt in the heart.

In God's very heart, He feels mercy toward you.

He is the author of mercy.

His mercy toward you brings salvation and the forgiveness of sins.

Greek for "comfort" is paraklesis.

It means exhortation, comfort, and encouragement.

A form of this word, parakletos is used for Holy Spirit.

That is why Holy Spirit is called the Comforter.

John 14:26 " But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you." **AMPLIFIED**

In the **NASB** the word is rendered "Helper."

All this shows you that God is a God of Comfort, of exhortation, and of encouragement.

All comfort comes from God who is the God of comfort, of mercy, and love.

But you may ask, "How is the Comfort received from God?"

By Faith

Because God says He is the God of comfort, then you need to believe it and act upon it.

You need to trust Him and receive His comfort as He provides it.

Matthew 9:22 "But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good **comfort**; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour." **KJV**

Mark 10:49 "And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good **comfort**, rise; he calleth thee.⁵⁰ And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.⁵² And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." **KJV**

From Others

God uses His people to comfort you.

When you have a problem doesn't the Lord send someone with an encouraging word, a helping hand, or a shoulder to cry on?

2 Corinthians 7:6-7 "But God, who **comforts** the depressed, **comforted** us by the coming of Titus; ⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the **comfort** with which he was **comforted** in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more." **NASB** (Many more scriptures concerning comfort)

Through His Word

Reading and hearing

The words of God are beautiful and there for our instruction and comfort.

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and **comfort** of the scriptures might have hope." **KJV**

By Holy Spirit

Acts 9:31 "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the **comfort** of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase." **NASB**

He is called the Comforter. He indwells you.

Verse 4 "who comforts us in all our **affliction** so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any **affliction** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Greek for "affliction" is thlipsis.

It can be translated as tribulation, trouble, anguish, persecution, burden, and affliction.

Afflictions come in all different shapes and sizes.

Sickness, financial difficulty, loss of a loved one, an unsure future, an auto accident.

Affliction occurs in the heart where we get frustrated, confused, and hurt.

Why do we have afflictions?

Because we live in a fallen world.

James 1:2-4 " Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." **NASB**

Afflictions are a way of making you better.

And that is how they should be tackled.

The testing and strengthening of your faith through the comfort and mercy of Jesus.

You don't have to worry whether or not He is going to take care of you.

YOU CAN BE INSTRUMENTS OF COMFORT TO OTHERS.

Verse 4 "so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Being used by God makes you feel good.

That isn't the only reason to help someone, but it does feel good when Holy Spirit uses you to do good.

How many of you, because of a trial, have been able to help another better because of that trial?

God does not comfort you just to make you comfortable, but to make you comforters.

Where nobody suffers, nobody cares. When you suffer you learn to care.

That is why God does not comfort us just to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.

But don't forget, He suffered first.

You should be encouraged because the comfort you receive from God comes through Jesus.

Verse 5 "For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ."

This means that all comfort, encouragement, and hope that you receive through people, through the Word, or through circumstances are filtered through Jesus.

Therefore, the comfort is pure, good, and right.

It is received by faith.

Where our sufferings are abundant, so is our comfort.

This comfort is a spiritual comfort received by faith, by active choice.

You do not have to live in a world of hurt and doubt.

You don't have to live alone.

You don't have to weep in solitude.

You have the body of Christ to lift you up.

You have the Word of God to teach you.

You have Holy Spirit indwelling in you who warms your soul.

You have the God of comfort waiting to show you His mercy and love.

But you need to trust.

You need to depend on Him.

You need to keep your eyes on Jesus and Him alone.

Jesus said,

Matthew 11:28-30 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. **Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.** I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” **MESSAGE**