



The God of All Comfort

By

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“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” 2 Corinthians 1:3

Your God ... my God ... is THE God of all comfort! All comfort comes from Him.

The Greek word for “comfort” is *parakleseos*. It comes from *para*, “to the side of,” and *kaleo*, “to call.” It means “to call to one’s side.” The idea is of someone coming along side of another and giving them aid, help, comfort, encouragement. They are not in front of you to pull or behind you to push. They are **right next to you**, walking step by step with you with their arm around you to help you make it through tough times and good times.

Think about what people do naturally when someone they love is in trouble. They step right up next to them, put their arm around them, hold them tight, tell them they love them and are there for them. Loving people naturally give the people they love comfort in times of trouble. Is God less loving than people? Of course not. God is Love. He is the Highest Example of Love. God does more loving and comforting than the billions of people in the world combined.

When you and I suffer, when we hurt, when we’re in pain and in trouble, God steps up close, puts His big arms around us, holds us close, tells us He loves us with all His heart and comforts us. He is the God of All Comfort.

Notice Paul writes that God is the God of **all** comfort. The Greek word is *pases*. It includes the idea of totality or the whole. A professor of Greek used to tell me that “all means all and that’s all all means.” It was a simple way of remembering that “all” covers everything. There’s nothing that “all” does not cover. God doesn’t provide “some” comfort or “a little” comfort or “most” of the comfort. He provides **ALL** comfort. He is the God of ALL comfort. He gives us **all** the aid, help and encouragement we will ever need in life.

Everyone needs comfort. Nobody leads a perfect, worry-free, trouble-free life. Everybody has problems. Everyone suffers and feels deep sorrow at times. We all need to hear an encouraging word, have someone put their arm around us and tell us it’s going to be alright. We need someone to walk with us through the tough times and guide us to safe harbor when we can’t see because our eyes are too filled with tears to know where to go. Everyone needs help. That’s what God does so well: He helps, He aids, He comforts, He encourages, He guides. Christ is “in” us comforting us through life.

The Bible is **rich** in examples of God’s comfort. Here’s just one example from the Old Testament. God brought comfort to His people in the southern kingdom of Israel through the prophet Nahum. The name Nahum means “comfort” in Hebrew. Nahum writes his pronouncement of God’s judgment to the wicked people of Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. Assyria had captured the northern kingdom of Israel about a century earlier. Assyria was after the southern kingdom, too. Nahum’s prophecy warned Nineveh that God was angry with them and would defeat them. Inside these prophetic

pronouncements are a couple of choice thoughts about how God comes alongside His troubled people to comfort them during very tough times.

“The LORD *is* good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him. But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies. What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make an utter end *of it*. Affliction will not rise up a second time . . . For the LORD will restore the excellence of Jacob Like the excellence of Israel, For the emptiers have emptied them out And ruined their vine branches.” Nahum 1:7-9; 2:2

Remember, no one can stand in the way of God. God is the Victor. Remember also that you are a child of God. Christ is “in” you and you are “in” Christ. He is there to protect you, guide you, fight for you, help you, and comfort you. If God is strong enough to defeat one of the most powerful nations on earth and drive them from Israel, He is certainly strong enough to take care of you day by day.

I pray these words are an encouragement this week as you face the trials and troubles of life. Remember, God is walking with you, arm around you, speaking strong words of comfort, pointing the way, guiding you through trouble, loving you with all His heart. He is “the God of all comfort.”

Comforting Others

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God comforts us in **all** our trials and troubles. Isn't that a wonderful thought? God is always there for us. He sees everything we go through, stands beside us with His Big, Powerful Arms around us and comforts us through the worst of times.

The word “tribulation” is *thlipsis*. It comes from the word *thlibo*, “to crush, press, compress, squeeze,” which comes from *thlao*, “to break.” The word in 2 Corinthians means “a pressing, pressure.” It is anything that burdens the spirit. It speaks of tough times in a person's life; things that oppress and afflict. Other translations of *thlipsis*, include “suffering, hardships, persecution, affliction, trials, anguish, hard pressed, severe trial, tribulation.” What God is comforting us through are the toughest times we face.

Why does God do that? He loves us. He wants us to be joyful and successful. But that's not the end of it. God has another reason for comforting us: “that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

God has a phenomenal plan for helping people. He places His Holy Spirit in us, comforts us in all of our troubles **so that** we can comfort others in **any** trouble they face. Not just the little problems people face, but **any** of them. That includes the biggest and worst trials. How do we accomplish that amazing feat? "... with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

The unsaved world is looking for something real. They need to see real people who have dealt with real problems and gone through them successfully. The world needs to see God's Strength. How do they see that? Through us! Through our lives! They watch Christians go through the worst kinds of pressing troubles. They see how we handle it. They see the strength and confidence we have in times of deep affliction and tribulation. Then they are open to what we have to say.

How do we learn how to comfort others? We can go to college. We can attend special seminars. We can read the latest books on the subject. But the **best** way to learn how to comfort another person is to call on what God taught us as we were going through tough times. We comfort others "with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Think back for a moment to a time of recent trouble in your life. Remember how you felt? Remember what you thought? Remember how God comforted you through His Word, His Spirit. Remember how He answered to your prayers? Remember how much you needed Him? Remember how much you depended on him? Remember what

you said to Him during that time of trouble? Remember what He said to you that gave you the most comfort?

Use that knowledge and experience as you minister to the needs of others. Use the comfort that God gave you to guide you in comforting someone else. Let the comfort of God flow through you to this other person. Stand close to them. Pray for them. Listen to them. Place your arms around them as you listen. Speak softly and strongly. Show your support as you show them the way through the problem. Be honest with them. Don't hold back the truth because it might offend them. The Truth will make them free. Always be humble and kind. You've been in trouble before. You know what it's like to have someone around you who is unfeeling, prideful and even mean in what they say. Be gentle and patient. The ministry of comfort can take a lot of time.

Teach them about God and how He loves them. Show them in the Word that the comfort you give them comes from God Who is the "God of all comfort." If they are not Christians, introduce them to the Loving Savior. If they are Christians, encourage them to live fully for Christ. Remind them that Christ is "in" them and they are "in" Christ. They are as close to God now as they will ever be.

Encourage the people you comfort to use the comfort God gave them to comfort others. It's a wonderful circle. God helps you to help others who help others who help others who help others. And God is glorified in every way as do! It's God's way of reaching a world with His Love and Strength. You and I are the great beneficiaries. We

receive God's comfort during our toughest times. We comfort others with the comfort God gave us. We rejoice in seeing them comforted and reaching out to others. The cycle continues until an entire world has heard of Christ and seen His power through the lives of His people.

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