

“The God of All Comfort”

by Wayne Goff

How much time and money do we spend to be comfortable? And how much do we dread any situation in which we are uncomfortable? Yet the Bible tells us that our God is “the God of all comfort,” **2 Corinthians 1:3**. Consider that thought with me for a moment.

New Testament

In the New Testament, the word “**comfort**” is translated from the Greek word *paraklēsis* {noun} or *parakaleō* {verb}. While that might not mean anything to the average Bible student, one might readily notice that this is the same word which describes the Holy Spirit as the “*Comforter*” in the KJV, **John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7**. Most translations today use the word “*Helper*,” but I have always enjoyed the description of the Holy Spirit comforting the apostles by the revelation of Scripture and the wondrous miracles *after* Jesus ascended to heaven. After all, Jesus promised that He would not leave them alone as “*orphans*” (**Jn. 14:18**)!

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit comforted the apostles, so our God will comfort us in our time of need. Jesus promised comfort for those who grieve over their sins (**Matt. 5:4**). Eternal forgiveness is the best comfort for that malady!

The education and examples which come from a careful study of the Old Testament will give us comfort and hope (**Rom. 15:4**).

Christ instructs brethren to enjoy the comfort of Christian unity by “*being like-minded toward one another, according to Jesus Christ, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (**Rom. 15:5-6**). There is no greater earthly comfort than that afforded by a congregation of united people!

“*The God of all comfort*” sustained the apostle Paul through all of his life’s adversities! No other apostle of Christian ever suffered as much as Paul did – Jewish beatings, Gentile beatings, a stoning that left him for dead, three shipwrecks, a night and day in the deep, and the endless perils at the hands of robbers, Jews, Gentiles, and false brethren (**2 Cor. 11:24-26**)! With all this in mind, it is quite impressive for Paul to refer to God as “*the God of all comfort*”! He should know!

Here is a lesson we should not forget: “*...For when I am weak, then I am strong*” (**2 Cor. 12:10**). God will come to our aid, help us, sustain us, and care for us – **in our darkest hours in life!** But we must turn to him in our hour of weakness.

“*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 Cor. 1:3-4**). Do you think that God’s comfort in life was not important to Paul?!

“Comfort” Defined

There are at least five different definitions for the word “comfort” which we are discussing in this article. But the one we have been emphasizing is #4: “consolation, comfort, solace: 2 Cor. 1:4-7; Heb. 6:18 ... afforded by the contents of the Scriptures, (Rom. 15:4)... God (is) the author and bestower of comfort (Rom. 15:5; 2 Cor. 1:3); ...” [*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*].

How often in our lives do we need comforting, encouragement, and peace of mind? Yet, the God of the Bible is so often neglected in this area, and instead people spend millions of dollars on mental therapy and pills which only mask the sorrow and anxiety.

Dear Christians, let us turn to God in our times of need through prayer, meditation and Scripture, and let God prove to you what the apostles knew already. God will take care of you!

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