

## The God of All Comfort

The word comfort conveys two meanings. The first is a state or feeling of well-being, being content, comfortable. The other deals with consolation, solace, the need to console or to be consoled.

II Corinthians 1:3:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

Our God, our Father, is the God of all comfort. He consoles us when we need it. He fills us with that feeling of consolation, of well-being. We know He is an all powerful, loving, caring Father, who is with us at all times and is willing to help.

II Corinthians 1:4:

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation [*thilipis*, mental pressure], that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble [*thilipis*], by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

God comforts us in all of our mental pressures. Then He gives us the ability to comfort others who are in need of comfort because of suffering troubles, mental pressures

The Greek word for comfort is *paraklesis*. It means a calling near, or a summoning to one side to admonish or encourage. It is for an encouraging and consolatory exhortation. It affords us comfort or refreshment.

II Corinthians 1:5-7:

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

And our hope of you *is* stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation.

In this life there are afflictions that we must endure. However, since we are partakers of his sufferings, we will also be partakers of God's consolation

Let's explore how God comforts us.

John 14:15-18:

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

*Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

What a tremendous truth! Jesus Christ was telling his apostles that after he was gone, they would not be left comfortless. He would send them a Comforter that would dwell in them and never leave. The Comforter that Jesus will send when he ascends to his Father is called the spirit of truth.

John 14:22-26:

Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.

But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Comforter is the gift of holy spirit. It came on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

From that day forward it was available to receive the Comforter. No one had to wait for it again. They were born again, born from above, of incorruptible seed.

I Peter 1:23:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

What a comfort it is to know that we have been given an incorruptible seed that can never leave just as Jesus told them in the Gospel of John. The Comforter is dwelling in us today for Colossians 1:27 says, it is "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Acts 9:31:

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified [built up]; and walking in the fear [awe, respect] of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Whole churches were multiplied. The Word of God was on the move because of the comfort that came from the holy spirit, from utilizing the gift of holy spirit. It is the genitive of origin. Comfort comes from utilizing the gift of holy spirit.

God provided rest and comfort for the First Century Churches so they could multiply because two of the Adversaries best men were converted to Christianity. Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8 who had bewitched the people of Samaria for a long time, and Saul the Pharisee, who was capturing and killing Christians as recorded in Acts 9.

I Corinthians 14:3:

But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Corinthians is a reproof epistle. This is referring to the operation of the manifestation of prophesy. It is to edify, build up the listeners, by way of exhortation and comfort. God gives the listeners words that will comfort [*paramuthia*] them, or words that give that needed quiet assurance, or a smooth tender acquiesce that the world doesn't give.

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.

The Scriptures of the Old Testament give us patience and comfort and build the hope of Christ's return in our lives.

1 Thessalonians 4:18:

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

What words. From the context, knowing the truth about those who are Christian and have died is very comforting. It is a sure hope, not a false hope, that comforts God's children..

I Thessalonians 4:13-18:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

All of Psalm 23 is comforting. Specifically though, verse 4 shows us that God's protection is a comfort no matter where we find ourselves.

Psalm 23:1-4:

The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Knowing that God's protection comforts us helps us to deal with fear and uncertainty.

The first usage of the word comfort in the Old Testament is concerning Noah.

Genesis 5:28-29:

And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:

And he called his name Noah, saying, This *same* shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

Noah was a comfort for the whole human race. He stood for God when literally the whole world wanted nothing to do with Him.

Job 2:11-13:

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that *his* grief was very great.

Job's friends would become miserable comforters because they did not help him with the truth. Their comforting was in vain, to no purpose, of no value, because they didn't have the right answers.

Job 21:34:

How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

David, the Psalmist, knew that God had taken care of him and comforted him all of his life. He wants to continue to teach others about the goodness of God even at an advanced age. He also is confident that God will fulfill His promise of raising him up at the time of the resurrection of the just. That adds to the comfort in David's life.

Psalm 119:49-50:

Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.

This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

David is comforted in afflictions by what the scrolls say about the coming Messiah, his hope, and what it taught about the resurrection.

Psalm 119:76:

Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

As David reads God's promises, he is comforted by the expectation of God's merciful kindness.

Isaiah 40:1-5:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

God is telling the prophet Isaiah that there is comfort in God because he has doubled there sins. Doubling ones sins is an orientalism meaning that God has covered them over and can see them no more. They have been paid for. He will not hold them to Israel's account if they seek Him.

Isaiah 61 is a prophecy about the coming Messiah. He will be a final comfort to all that mourn, and suffer.

Isaiah 61:1-2:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.

This is exactly what the Messiah did.

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.

A woman who had an issue of blood stole her healing from Jesus. Jesus' exhortation was for her to be of good comfort. The Greek word for comfort here is *tharseo*. The root word is the English word courage. It is always used as an imperative, a command.

Jesus is telling her to be of good courage! To take courage! To cheer up! Take heart! Feel confident! Because her believing in him had delivered her.

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.

This is the same construction in the Greek. The people are telling the blind man to have courage, or to cheer up, because Jesus, the one who can meet his need, is calling for him.

I Thessalonians 3:1-7:

Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to *see* you:

Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith.

Timothy was sent to establish and comfort the saints in their believing during a time of great affliction. The believers stand on believing the truth in Thessalonica brought comfort to the Apostle Paul and the saints that traveled with him.

I Thessalonians 5:9-11:

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

We can all be comforted when we are reminded of the salvation that Christ accomplished for us.

I Thessalonians 5:14:

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded [*oligopsuchos* - faint-hearted], support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

Comfort those who are ready to faint in their mind with the truths from the Word of God.

II Thessalonians 2:16-17:

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,  
Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

J.B. Phillips Translation:

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father (who has loved us and given us unending encouragement and unfailing hope by his grace) inspire you with courage and confidence in every good thing you say or do.

New International Version:

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

We in this day and time need unending encouragement and unfailing hope. God truly is the God of all comfort. When the world lets us down, remember that the true God never will. We have a sure hope, Christ is coming back and we will be rewarded for what we do in love here on earth for Him.

II Corinthians 13:11:

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

A great exhortation from God via His Word to enliven our day.