

Comfort and Joy

Part Three - Comforting One Another

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the God of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. 6 Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. 7 We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us.

- **Christ is the God of all comfort - not the god of all affliction.**

2 Corinthians 4:4

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Isaiah 43:2

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

- **God often comforts us through comforters that have been comforted themselves.**

2 Corinthians 7:5-7

For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn - conflicts on the outside, fears within. 6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him.

- **Misery is often training ground for ministry.**

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

How to Comfort Others

1. Pray for them.

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

2. Share how God has helped you.

Revelation 12:11

But they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

3. Use the power of words to comfort them.

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 25:11

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver.

4. Know when to be quiet.

Proverbs 17:28

Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.

5. Use kind gestures to comfort them.

Proverbs 11:25

Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped.

2 Corinthians 2:15

Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God.