

Series: Standing on the Promises of God

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

2 CORINTHIANS 1

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:3

2 Corinthians 1:3

³ Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Introduction:

I want to share with you today something that we all need, and it is something that God has promised to give each of us.

That one thing is comfort.

We all need comfort.

In our text we are going to see this word or a form of it used 10 times in our text.

Let's read:

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

³ Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and **the God of all comfort**; ⁴ Who **comforteth** us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to **comfort** them which are in any trouble, by the **comfort** wherewith we ourselves are **comforted** of God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our **consolation** also aboundeth by Christ. ⁶ 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. ⁷ And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the **consolation**.

The title of the message is "**The God of All Comfort**" as we will read in verse 3.

Comfort is something that we all need and it is something that God has promised and something that God has and is providing.

None of us are strong enough to stand alone.

We need the Lord to stand with us and to give us comfort.

The word comfort here is a very interesting word.

It goes well beyond sentiment.

It means more than a sentimental pat on the head.

The word means to give strength.

The last part of the word “comfort” – has the idea of strength.

God is the God who gives us not mere sentiment, but He is the God who comes alongside of us to give us strength in time of need.

In John 14 the Holy Spirit is called the Comforter.

John 14:16

¹⁶ *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;*

John 14:26

²⁶ *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.*

He's the One who comes not merely with sentiment, though He does have sentiment; not merely with sympathy, though He does have sympathy; He is the One who gives us with strength.

I want to share briefly today three things about “The God of All Comfort.”

Note:

1. THE SOURCE OF THAT COMFORT – IS GOD HIMSELF

2 Corinthians 1:3

³ *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and **the God of all comfort;***

God is referred to in this verse as the God of All Comfort.

God has cornered the market on comfort.

There is no real lasting, genuine comfort apart from God.

Even when we get comfort from other individuals, it is the comfort that those individuals received from God.

The have become the middleman per say and they are passing it on to someone else.

Note verse 4:

2 Corinthians 1:4

⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

When someone comes along and gives you comfort all they are doing is passing on the comfort that they themselves have received of the Lord.

God is the God of all comfort.

Satan on the other hand is the author of all discouragement.

If you have discouragement or are discouraged today that didn't come from God; it came from Satan.

If you need comfort, you'll not get it from any other source. You'll have to receive that comfort from God.

I'm amazed at what people do and where people go when they hurt. Where are you going to go?

Are you going to go, when your sad heart aches till it nearly breaks, to philosophy?

Are you going to go for comfort to the things, the toys, the trinkets, or the material things of this world?

You can have a beautiful house and a broken heart.

Are you going to go to one of the religions of this world? To Buddha? To Confucius? Where are you going to go? To Mohammed? Where are you going to go?

All of these individuals died and are still dead.

Our Saviour is alive, and He lives within our heart.

Where are you going to go for comfort when your heartaches?

Are you going to sit around and have a pity party? If you do, the only one who'll come will be you.

You're not going to get any comfort from self-pity—not from a bottle, not from a pill, not from a tranquilizer.

God is the Father of mercy and the God of All Comfort.

Not only do we see the Source of Comfort – God, but note secondly:

2. THE SUBJECTS OF THE COMFORT – THOSE WHO KNOW TRIBULATION

2 Corinthians 1:4

⁴ **Who comforteth us in all our tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Paul is talking about himself.

Note also verse 8:

2 Corinthians 1:8

⁸ For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

Paul again is speaking of himself.

Paul didn't have it easy just because he was allowing God to use him.

We are not promised ease but rather comfort.

One of the ways that God comforts us is in tribulation.

If we didn't have tribulation; we wouldn't need comfort.

Christians have tribulation. There's no fine print in the contract. Jesus said clearly, plainly, forcefully in John 16:33:

John 16:33

³³ *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world **ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

With tribulation we have comfort.

As you study the Bible you will find that many who had to endure tribulation.

As you consider history you'll find that some great men of God came to time of discouragement.

Charles Spurgeon had great bouts of discouragement.

The word tribulation here means: to be pressed down.

It means to be living under pressure.

We all want the abundant life; but, we will not have the abundant life without abundant tribulation.

Note verse 5:

2 Corinthians 1:5

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

The two go together. When you have abounding tribulation, abounding suffering, at the same time, you're going to know abounding comfort and abounding strength.

Sometimes people say, "I wish the Lord were more real to me."

Let me say personally; the times the Lord has been closest to me have not been those times when everything has been going the best.

The times that the Lord has been more real to me have been those times of suffering, and heartache, and pain. And, as those sufferings abound, I have known His consolation.

Illustration:

The songwriter penned these words:

(verse 1)

I've had many tears and sorrows,
I've had questions for tomorrow,
There've been times
I didn't know right from wrong:
But in every situation
God gave blessed consolation
That my trials come
To only make me strong.

(verse 3)

I thank God for the mountains,
And I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank Him for the storms
He brought me through;
For if I'd never had a problem
I wouldn't know
That He could solve them,
I'd never know what faith
In God could do.

(chorus)

Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God;

Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word.

The subjects of Tribulations is you and me, but God is
the God of all comfort.

We have considered the Source and Subjects of
Comfort, note lastly:

3. THE STEWARDSHIP OF THAT COMFORT – SO WE MAY COMFORT OTHERS

2 Corinthians 1:4

*⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, **that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble**, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

This is the purpose of comfort.

God comforts us, in order that we may be able to
comfort others.

We are comforted, that we might comfort. We are
blessed, that we might be a blessing.

Illustration:

Remember reading in the Bible about Samson, who
had a lion attack him. And, the Bible says the Spirit of

the Lord came upon Samson, and, Samson, with his bare hands, fought and killed that lion.

Later on, Samson came back to the carcass of the lion. And, in the carcass of the lion the bees had moved in and made a beehive in the carcass.

The Bible declares how Samson reached in and got some honey, and he ate of it. And then, as he was going along, he saw his mother and his father; and, he gave to them honey out of a carcass of the lion (Judges 14:5-9).

Asa I read that story I think how that the lion of Hell; Satan has at time roared and attacked. It was at those times that God gave comfort and strength and made victory possible.

It is during those times that I have learned as Samson spoke of:

Judges 14:14

¹⁴ *And he said unto them, **Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.** And they could not in three days expound the riddle.*

Note verse 5:

2 Corinthians 1:5

⁵ *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also **aboundeth** by Christ.*

The word aboundeth means to overflow.

A person who is finding victory in life is the person who's going to be a blessing.

Do you know what trouble is for some people?

For some people, trouble is a prison.

For other people, trouble becomes a hospital.

But, if you will allow the Holy Spirit to walk with you and teach you, trouble will become a seminary where you will learn things that you could not learn any other way, and your life will abound to other people.

One of the greatest things lacking in churches today is the gift of mercy and being able to comfort people.

We live in a world that's hurting.

People who have hurt and have found help and found honey in the carcass of the lion, who have been comforted by God—these are the ones who are able to comfort others.

Who do you go to when your heart is broken?

You go to somebody that knows something about comfort and consolation, because they have been there.

Understand it's not a compliment to you if others don't come to you with their problems?

Quote:

People don't go to an empty well to draw water, but they go to people who have been there.

Note: Hebrews 4:15:

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

He "was tempted in all points like as we are" that is why He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities"

The Lord has been there and knows, and is able to provide all comfort.

Now understand He didn't have to become a man to know how we feel. He already knows everything. But, He became a man so that we could know that He

knows—I mean, so that we could understand that He has been there.

Close:

God is the God of all comfort.

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

We may have trouble, but God is the God of all comfort.

The poet Annie Flint penned these words:

God has not promised skies always blue
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God has not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God has promised strength for today,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

That's the God of all comfort.