

# THE COMFORT OF A DISCIPLE

(God's Provision For Any Disciple Under Pressure)  
II Corinthians 1:1-11



## “THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT”

- ◆ The Character Of Your Encouragement
- ◆ The Challenge Of Your Encouragement
- ◆ The Cause Of Your Encouragement

“Who comforts **us** in **all** our tribulation” (II Corinthians 1:4)

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# “THE COMFORT OF A DISCIPLE”

**Text:** II Corinthians 1:1-11

**Subject:** God's Provision For Anyone Under Pressure

## Introduction

**Fact:** The letter of II Corinthians was written by Paul, the Apostle, to the saints in Achaia. (II Cor. 1:1)

**Fact:** Paul wrote the letter for these reasons:

- #1. Paul wanted the church to forgive and restore the member that was causing trouble.
- #2. Paul wanted to vindicate the authenticity of his call and ministry.
- #3. Paul wanted the church to complete its missionary offering for the needy saints in Judea.
- #4. Paul wanted to encourage every believer who would ever find themselves under pressure.

**Question:** Was Paul qualified to speak to people in trouble and under pressure?

**Answer:** He was more than qualified to speak words of encouragement to any disciple in need:

### (Paul Found Comfort On These Occasions:)

- #1. In Acts 19:23-40, Paul's life was threatened by an angry mob.
- #2. In Acts 20:18-27, Paul testified that, "Bonds and afflictions await me".
- #3. In Romans 16:4, Paul says that Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives for him.
- #4. In Romans 16:7, Paul said that Andronicus and Junia were his fellow prisoners.
- #5. In I Corinthians 4:9-13, Paul says that he was despised, hungry, thirsty, buffeted, reviled, persecuted, defamed and made as the filth of the world.
- #6. In I Corinthians 15:32, Paul fought with beasts at Ephesus.
- #7. In II Corinthians 1:8-10, Paul despaired of life itself under a fearful burden.
- #8. In II Corinthians 11:23-27, Paul says he was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked and in peril.
- #9. In II Corinthians 4:8-10, Paul testified of being perplexed and cast down.
- #10. In Philippians 2:27, Paul was alarmed that "Sorrow upon sorrow" might befall him.

**Question:** Pastor, how did Paul survive under pressure?

**Question:** Pastor, what sustained Paul as a follower of Jesus?

**Question:** Pastor, how did Paul receive Divine encouragement?

**Question:** Pastor, what does God promise me in every season of my life (at every turn in the road)?

### (The Process Of Divine Encouragement)

#### I. The "Character" Behind Your Encouragement:

**Question:** Pastor, who is it that promises to comfort every believer?

**Answer:** (V. 3) "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort".

**Question:** Why does Paul begin (v. 3) with the note of praise, "Blessed be God"?

**Answer:** Because Paul knew something about God's character, and wants us to know as well:

##### #1. God is our Father

"Even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 3) means:

- ◆ God sees us in His Son Jesus.
- ◆ God loves us as He loves His Son.
- ◆ And, we can approach God as His dear children.

##### #2. God is a Father of Mercy

"The Father of mercies" (v. 3) means:

- ◆ God's nature and character is that of a loving father.
- ◆ The word "mercies" (OIKTIRMON) means: "To have compassion upon"
- ◆ The word "mercies" is plural, which means, God doesn't show you mercy just once (but He showers it upon you continuously again, and again, and again, and again)

#3. God is the God of all comfort (v. 3)

The word "comfort" (PARAKLESEOS) means:

- ◆ "To come along side of another"
- ◆ "To bring support and relief"
- ◆ "To console and encourage"

**It means:** that, God comes along side of us and pours strength into the heart so that we can overcome in every pressure.

**(What Encouraging Words)**

- #1. You can approach God as His beloved children!
- #2. You are recipients of God's mercy over and over again!
- #3. You will receive the strength in the heart to meet every demand upon you!

**II. The "Challenge" Of Your Encouragement**

**Question:** Pastor, why is there a need of Divine comfort in every believer?

**Answer:** Because of what everyone experiences in Vs. 4, 5, 6, & 8:

- ◆ In v. 4, "Who comforts us in all or tribulation"
- ◆ In v. 5, "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us"
- ◆ In v. 6, "And whether we be afflicted"
- ◆ In v. 8, "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble"

**(4 Challenges Of Your Encouraged Heart Are:)**

- #1. **Tribulation**      #2. **Suffering**      #3. **Affliction**      #4. **Trouble**

**Question:** Why do we need to know that God is the God of all comfort?

**Answer:** Because of what everyone of us will face at some time (in v. 4):

**"Who Comforts Us In All Our (What?)...Tribulation?"**

**Question:** What does the word tribulation mean?

**Answer:** It is a word (THLIPSEI) that means:

- ◆ "To be weighed down exceedingly" (and)
- ◆ "To be pressed under a heavy load"
- ◆ This is a picture of a beast of burden who is sinking under the pressure of a heavy load.

**Question:** What is the good news for every believer under pressure of any kind?

**Answer:** (Two little words in v. 4)

- #1. "Us" in (v. 4) means: Paul is not only talking about his own struggle.
  - ◆ But, he is talking about ours as well.
  - ◆ Without favorites - God's mercy and comfort and strength are for everyone.
- #2. "All" in (v. 4) means: not just a few of our trials and afflictions.
  - ◆ "All" means: that we do not have to bear one single moment of trial alone!

**III. The "Comfort" Of Your Encouragement**

- #1. We believe in the character of God's nature.
- #2. We understand that no one is exempt from tribulation (or heavy loads).
- #3. What is the great comfort in all of this tribulation process?

## (2 Verses Of Promise & Power)

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

(V. 7) "And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as you are partakers of the sufferings so shall you be also of the consolation"

**Question:** What is God saying to us through Paul?

**Answer:** Something that takes the worry out of living:

### (Notice The Promise of Vs. 5 & 7)

"As you partake of any sufferings, you will also partake of God's comfort"

### (In Other Words)

◆ As any tribulation, suffering or affliction increases – so does the supply of God's grace.

**Question:** Why does Paul have such a confident expectation to pass on to us?

**Answer:** Because Paul has discovered, that when the pressures of life increase, **so does the supply of Divine Grace!**

◆ In (v. 5), the word "abound" refers to a picture of an overflowing river.

◆ It means God has the supply of grace for every need on time, (and He abounds in pouring out an overflow of grace).

**Question:** But pastor, how do we receive this grace?

**Answer:** Paul looked away from himself and his feelings (and focused on the Lord where grace comes from).

◆ The Holy Spirit (our comforter) is more than able.

◆ The Holy Spirit finds an expecting vessel.

◆ The Holy Spirit fills us and God's strength is poured into our heart!

## IV. The "Cause" Of Your Encouragement

**Question:** Pastor, why does God go to such great lengths to comfort me in every season?

**Answer:** (v. 4) "Who comforts us in all our tribulation... (why)...that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God".

**Question:** Why such great ministry by the Holy Spirit to your heart and mine?

(V. 4) "**So that we may be able to help others in the journey!**"

### (In Others Words)

◆ God will send it to you, if God can get it through you!

**Question:** Why do you think you go through the things you go through?

**Question:** Why has God allowed you to experience all of your difficulties?

**Question:** How does God redeem your hard places for His purpose and glory?

**Answer:** (2 ways)

#1. God uses our own weaknesses to pour out His Spirit and make **us** strong (and),

#2. God uses our weaknesses made strong, so that we can comfort and encourage **others** in need of being made strong!

**Question:** Why do we go through what we go through?

**Answer:** #1. So that God has the opportunity to enable **you to stand**.

#2. So that you have the opportunity to **enable someone else to stand**.

### In Fact:

(Your suffering in this life, mixed with God's supply of abundant grace by His Spirit)

(Are Having A Profound Affect On People)

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(Notice Verse 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”.

**Question:** What happens to a believer who suffers, looks to God and gets grace, and doesn't get bitter, angry, sour and full of self-pity?

**Answer:** This believer becomes more effective in ministry (v. 6) in 3 ways:

- #1. You provoke others to be encouraged!
- #2. You provoke others to endure and be faithful!
- #3. You provoke others to be saved and trust the One who is helping you!

**Question:** What unbeliever wants a God who isn't able to sustain one of His own children? (not many!)

**In Conclusion**

**Question:** What can we do to live as a comforted disciple in every season of life? (And not yield to self pity and self destruction?)

(2 Things)

#1. **We exercise Faith:**

(V. 9) “We trust not in ourselves but in God which raises the dead”

(V. 10) “In whom we trust that God will yet deliver us”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If God can raise the dead, then surely we can trust Him for lesser things.

**Question:** How many of you believe in Easter (the resurrection?)

#2. **We exercise Prayer:**

(V. 11) “Ye also “helping together” by prayer for us”

**Question:** What does it mean to “help together by prayer for us”?

**Answer:** The words “**helping together**” come from the Greek word (SUNUPOURGEO) which means: “**with**”, “**under**” and “**work**” .

- ◆ It refers to laborers under the burden, working together to accomplish something.

**This Is What Prayer Does:**

- ◆ It helps and allows God to move on your behalf.
- ◆ It allows God to deliver us and protect us and sustain us in the midst of whatever.
- ◆ Prayer is the Divine means to bring strength to you and those you pray for.
- ◆ Prayer is the God ordained way to receive help and answers.

**Question:** Do you need answers to prayer today?

**Question:** Do you need mercy because you have sinned?

**Question:** Are you in need (like Paul) of Divine comfort?

**Question:** Has the devil whispered “You're not going to make it”?

**Question:** Are you aware that God is preparing you for something good?

**Question:** Do you need someone to “**Help you in prayer**” for any reason this morning?

Altar call

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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