

Are You A Comforter?

⇒ **Text:** 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

⇒ **Introduction:**

- One of the greatest needs of the world is for people who are comforters.
- The world has so much:
 - 1) wickedness and depressing things
 - 2) harsh and critical people
 - 3) difficult situations and
 - 4) disappointments and discouragements, that life's burden can be great and difficult to bear.
- A wonderful thing about coming to God's house is that we can be among people:
 - - who love God and love each other.
 - - who will build each other up,
 - - who will comfort each other so we can better carry on under the trials of life.
 - - who will lift us up and cheer us, who will give us hope and joy to carry on, people
 - - who are with us when we are down, people
 - - who we can trust will not treat us badly, people
 - - who will be a blessing to us and to our family.
- The main lesson we want to consider today is how we can:
 - a) be comforted ourselves, and
 - b) be a comforter of others.
- **Example:**
 - One job of a pastor is to comfort those who need comforting.
 - Anything that hinders his ability to comfort others is an attack on those needing comforting.
- Let's build an atmosphere of comfort, love and encouragement where we can all grow to our maximum spiritual potential.

⇒ **Question: What Brings Comfort to us?**

- **1. The Holy Spirit** comforts us compared to the enemy who accuses us.
 - **John 14:16-18.**
- When Saul's attacks on the churches ceased at his conversion, we see these events in **Acts 9:31.**
 - a) the churches had rest – what a relief, what peace.
 - b) the churches were edified – they had a chance to develop, grow and build.
 - c) the people walked in the fear of God and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost.
 - d) the churches multiplied.
- The Holy Spirit seeks to comfort believers and churches.
 - As we are filled with and led by the Holy Spirit, showing the fruit of the Spirit, we are comforted.

- **2. The Scriptures** give us patience, comfort and hope.
 - **Romans 15:4-5.**
- As we read the life stories of Bible characters, we see how;
 - i) They endured trials and God brought them through;
 - ii) They sacrificed and brought blessings to many peoples lives;
 - iii) Good came out of bad situations.
- This gives us patience to endure trials, comfort that God is working out His plans, and hope that we will be kept safe.
- This is one reason why we read the Bible and why it is so popular.
 - The Bible gives us patience, comfort and hope.
- **3. Preaching** is a comfort to us.
 - “But he that prophesieth (or preaches) speaketh unto men to edification (strengthen), and exhortation (encourage), and comfort.” **I Corinthians 14:3.**
 - Preaching is meant to edify (strengthen), exhort (encourage) and comfort (console) believers.
- **4. Return of a faithful Christian friend.**
- Four men who comforted others are:
 - i) **Titus** coming in **II Corinthians 7:4-6.** “God...comforted us by the coming of Titus.” (v.6).
 - Paul tells how in Macedonia, he and his workers had no rest, but were troubled on every side.
 - Outside were fightings. Inside were fears.
 - Paul said in v.6 that comfort came from 2 sources.
 - a) God comforts those who are cast down, and
 - b) God comforted us by the coming of Titus.
 - Titus coming to Paul was a great comfort because Titus was committed to helping build people up.
 - He was a blessing and a joy to be with. Is your coming a comfort and a blessing to others or a curse?
 - ii) **Tychichus’** arrival comforted the Ephesian’s hearts.
 - **Ephesians 6:21-22.**
 - iii) **Timothy** comforted Paul by giving a good report of the Christians at Philippi.
 - **Philippians 2:19.**
 - Timothy came to Thessalonica to comfort and establish them in the faith.
 - **I Thess. 3:2.**
 - iv) **Justus**, Paul’s fellow worker, comforted Paul.
 - **Colossians 4:11.**
- **5. The Return Of Christ** comforts us.
 - **I Thess. 4:13-18.**- V.18 - “...Comfort one another with these words.”
 - What words?
 - i) Don’t sorrow hopelessly at the death of our loved ones. v.13.
 - ii) The dead in Christ are with Christ in heaven. v.14.

- iii) The dead in Christ will rise first. v.14-16.
 - iv) We will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air.
 - v) We will ever be with the Lord. v.17.
 - **6. Other believers Faith and Commitment** to God, their local church and the work of God is a great comfort to all believers who are watching.
 - **I Thessalonians 3:7-8.**
 - Your faith, faithfulness and commitment to God's work and to each other is a great comfort to other church members.
 - On the other hand, disloyalty is a discomfort to others.
 - If we stand fast and hold the traditions we've been taught by the Apostles in the New Testament, we will comfort others and be established in every good word and work.
 - **II Thessalonians 2:15-17.**
 - **7. Thoughts of going to Heaven** is a comfort.
 - **Luke 16:25.**
 - No matter how bad things get, we have the comfort of looking forward to joy and happiness forever in Heaven.
 - This is especially true for those who finish the work that God has given them to do.
 - They can look forward to receiving a crown of righteousness for faithfully serving Christ to the end. - **I Timothy 4:6-8.**
 - **8. Speaking Good Words to people** comforts them.
 - Rehoboam should have done this – **I Kings 12:1-7.**
- ⇒ **Conclusion:**
- We are commanded to:
 - i) Comfort the feeble-minded (little spirited, fainthearted, fretful, worried) - **I Thess. 5:14.**
 - ii) Comfort those in trouble, by the comfort that we are comforted of God. **II Cor. 1:3-4**
 - iii) Comfort yourselves and edify one another even as ye do. - **I Thessalonians 5:11.**
 - iv) Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace. - **II Corinthians 13:11.**
 - If you do these 8 things I mentioned this morning
 - Allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you
 - Allow the Scriptures to comfort you
 - Allow Preaching comfort you
 - Allow Return of a Faithful Christ Friend comfort you
 - Allow The Return of Christ comfort you
 - Allow Other believers faith and commitment comfort you
 - Allow the Thoughts of going to heaven comfort you
 - Allow Speaking Good words to people comfort you.
 - The result –
 - You will be a true comforter.