

## 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.