

# **Ministry Of Comfort**

**11-12-17**

2 Corinthians 1:3–7 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies** and **God of all comfort**,  
<sup>4</sup> **who comforts us in “all” our affliction, “so that” we may be able to comfort those who are in “any” affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.** <sup>5</sup> For as “we share abundantly” in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ “we share abundantly” in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, **it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, “(the same comfort) which you experience” when you patiently endure “the same sufferings” that we suffer.** <sup>7</sup> **Our hope for you is unshaken, for “we know” that as “you share” in our sufferings, “you will also share” in our comfort.**

God is the God of all comfort. God cares for HIS people and actively comforts them. **Plus** through this comfort God equips HIS people to minister that same comfort to others who are suffering.

2 Corinthians 1:4a (ESV)

**God comforts us in “all” our affliction, “so that” we may be able to comfort those who are in “any” affliction,**

The last part of this verse explains how “we are equipped” to minister comfort to others:

2 Corinthians 1:4b (ESV)

**It is the comfort with which “we ourselves” are comforted by God.**

**We share what we have experienced. Pain is Pain!**

Where sufferings are multiplied, God’s comfort is also multiplied. God places mature and older believers **who have been trained by suffering** in the church to minister HIS comfort to HIS people.

2 Corinthians 1:5 (ESV)

**For as “we share abundantly” in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ “we share abundantly” in comfort too.**

The greater the suffering, the greater the comfort and the greater the ability to share with others that same comfort. “The sufferings of Christ” are not the completed event of Christ’s suffering on the cross.

**These sufferings spoken of here are the sufferings that befall the “believers” engaged in the service of Christ.** They are Christ’s sufferings because **Christ identifies Himself** with his afflicted Church.

Therefore, Paul is saying, “All that he has suffered is for others benefit.”

2 Corinthians 1:6 (ESV)

**If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort.**

**Likewise as believers, when we suffer and receive comfort from God, we know God is equipping us to comfort others when they are suffering.** Therefore, when we have been afflicted **“and”** have been comforted by God, **“We Know with all confidence”** that when others are afflicted, God will comfort them as HE has comforted us.

2 Corinthians 1:7 (ESV)

**Our hope for you is unshaken, for “we know” that as “you share” in our sufferings, “you will also share” in our comfort.**

Comfort refers not only to an inner feeling of encouragement, but to **divine intervention** in the perilous situation and **deliverance** from it. (v.8-10)

**We all have the Bible.** The Bible is inspired, never changing, and speaks to **each believer** clearly! **HOWEVER, life and difficulties give us deeper insights into the Bible and God’s mind. We learn from sufferings.** For example, when we have problems with our children, would we rather have counsel from a godly couple with no children or a couple who have already raised their own children? When we are struggling with our marriage, would we rather have counsel from a godly couple that has been married only 6 months or a couple that has been married 20 or more years? **God clearly say, “Study the Scripture and grow in Grace.”**

**However God will also train us through suffering, difficulties, afflictions, and other life experiences along the way. Thus God will give us the Ministry of Comfort.** In this lost dark world let us examine suffering and the Ministry of Comfort from God's point of view. **Truth: All people suffer and have disappointments in life!** C.S. Lewis had an interesting insight. He said, "Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world!"

**God is crying out to this world through suffering and pain.** We, believers, the church, have the MINISTRY OF COMFORT to the world! Christians have legitimate hope in the God of all comfort.

**Christians minister comfort to a suffering world!**

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made HIM who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in HIM we might become the righteousness of God.

**Prophetic Team**

*Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.*

**Brothers and Sisters in this world we will have tribulation. Lesson: With Pain people become "Better or Bitter" or even more pronounced they become "Compassionate or Ruthless"! Be Better!**