

2 Corinthians
"God of All Comfort" # 1
2 Cor. 1:1-7
4-10-16 Sun AM

One of the key words in this letter is comfort or encouragement. In spite of all the trials Paul experienced, he was able by the grace of God, to write a letter of encouragement.

When you find yourself discouraged and ready to give up, get your focus on God and share with others how God comforted you with people who are experiencing what you experienced.

TT- How can we find encouragement in God? I want to share three simple reminders from our text:

Remember...

I. Who God is [v. 3].

Paul understood that God was in control of his circumstances and praise was important in achieving victory. Verse 3 contains for reasons we are to praise God for his person and work:

1. Praise Him because He is God [v. 3a].

In Eph. 1:3-4 Paul praised God for what He did in the past, when He chose us in Christ and blessed us with all spiritual blessings.

In 1 Peter 1:3 Peter praised God for future blessings and a living hope. But here Paul praised God for present blessings.

2. Praise Him because of His Son [v. 3b].

Only thru Jesus can we call God "father" and come into God's presence as children. God sees us in his Son and loves us as he loves his Son. We are beloved of God and accepted in the beloved.

3. Praise Him because of His mercies [v. 3c].

God is the father of [originator] mercies. God in his grace gives us what we do not deserve, and in His mercy He does not give us what we do deserve. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed [Lam. 3:22].

4. Praise Him because of His comfort [v. 3d].

We see this word "comfort" or "consolation" repeated 10 times in 2 Cor. 1:1-11. God puts strength into our hearts so we can face our trials and triumph over them.

The Greek word means “to come alongside and help.” God can encourage us thru His Scriptures, His Spirit, but sometimes He uses the saints to comfort us.

It is easy in our trials to look at ourselves and focus on our problems. But we must first look to God and realize all that God is to us.

We praise Him because he is God, because of His Son, because of his mercies, and because of His comfort.

Remember...

I. Who God is [v. 3].

II. What God does for you [v. 4a].

He permits trials in our life and comforts us in the trial. The word “tribulation” means narrow, confined, under pressure and affliction or trouble.

There are some sufferings we endure because we are in human a fallen body and world.

There are sufferings that come our way because we are God’s people living righteously and walking in truth.

Trouble is no accident in the believer’s life, everything is by divine appointment and allowed by God to make us better and more Christ-like.

Our trials are not by “fate” or by “chance.” When we understand that God is in control then we can trust the God of our circumstances.

What can we learn from vs. 8-11?

1. v.8- God is in control of trials.
2. v. 9- God enables us to bear our trials.
3. v. 10- God delivers us from our trials.
4. God is glorified through our Trials.
Praise God for teaching us He is in control of the trials.

Remember...

I. Who God Is.

II. What God Does for You.

III. What God Does Through You [vv. 4b-7].

One reason for trials is that we might be a channel of blessing to comfort and bless others going thru trials.

Human suffering is not easy to understand. Sometimes we suffer because of our own sin or the sin of others. There are storms of correction in our life.

We can suffer storms of perfection that are designed to make us like Christ and usable by God [2 Cor. 12:8-9].

But another reason for trials is that we may help others. God sometimes sends suffering on a particular fellowship so that we may learn to minister to others and show grace.

God has to work in us before He can work thru us. Someone said, "God prepares us for what he is preparing for us."

v. 5: We must suffer in the will of God; we share in the sufferings of Christ. Paul referred to the "fellowship of His Sufferings" [Phil. 3:10], the trials we suffer because we faithfully do God's will.

As sufferings increase so does God's grace increase. God has ample grace for every need and every believer.

Hebrews 4:15-16, 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. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Summary:

It is important that we focus on God and not our problem. Remember who God is; remember what God does for you, and remember what God does thru you- let him use you to comfort others.