

Comfort One Another

2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Introduction

The Bible makes it clear that simply living in this world, we will have trouble. Sometimes we bring suffering on ourselves, sometimes others inflict it on us, and sometimes difficulties arise based on circumstances of life. However, in the midst of the affliction, trouble, or suffering - whether it's emotional, financial, relational, or circumstantial – you will need comfort. God is our ultimate comforter. While affliction is unavoidable, there is no hardship for which God cannot and will not supply adequate comfort. And, as we experience His comfort in a tangible way, we are instructed to comfort one another.

Getting Started

1. *Reflecting on the sermon, what are the three reasons that God allows pain or discomfort?*
2. *What does "comfort" mean to you? What can others do or say to show you care and understanding during suffering?*

Let's Get Personal

1. Isaiah 43:2, God says, "...I will be with you..." Even in the midst of difficult situations, we are not alone. *Tell your group of a time you underwent difficulty or discomfort and how you experienced God's comfort during that period.*
2. "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16) God allows affliction to weaken us so that we can experience supernatural strength. *What positive spiritual changes or signs of spiritual growth have come as a result of your journey through a challenging situation?*
3. A challenge for every Christian is focusing on that which is seen instead of fixing our eyes on things which are eternal. We can't let our situation define our outlook. *Share with your group practical ways that you've found to keep your focus on God during times when life is tough.*

Take the Next Step

1. There is a positive outcome from affliction. Not only can we see personal spiritual growth as a result of learning to trust God and receiving comfort from Him, we can offer that same comfort to others in their time of need. *Is there someone who could use your comfort? Ask God to show you a tangible way that you can offer His comfort to others this week.*
2. Your greatest growth won't merely come from your deliverance; but from God walking with you through your pain. *Are you in a difficult situation? Tell your group how they can pray for you this week and allow the body of Christ to be a comfort to you.*

Renew Your Mind

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
