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## **God of all Comfort**

**2Corinthians 1:5-23**

We are promised God's comfort in times of affliction—vs 3-7 7x's affliction but 10x's comfort. Only thru adversity come a fully developed faith and the God of all comfort is there to strengthen the weak areas of our life.

*'For every prayer that rises to God in days of prosperity, ten thousand rise in days of adversity.'*

How we perceive trials & the uninvited guest of suffering will make you a **better** person or a **bitter** person. The same sun that softens the wax also hardens the clay. **Affliction reveal the heart.**

**Rom 5:3***We exult in our tribulation, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance and perseverance proven character.'* **Soft cushy life will not**

*I walked a mile with Pleasure; She chatted all the way; But left me none the wiser  
For all she had to say. I walked a mile with Sorrow, And ne'er a word said she;  
But, oh! The things I learned from her, When sorrow walked with me. Rbt Browning*

**4** who comforts us in **all** our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction w/ the comfort w/ which we ourselves are comforted by God

All=Gods faithfulness **'Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you** **Pet 5:7**  
**David** **'I sought the Lord and He heard me, & delivered me fro all my fears'** **Ps 34:4**

**5** For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in **abundance**, so also our comfort is **abundant** through Christ.

Abundant suffering met w/ abundant comfort. Following Christ is to follow Him in suffering-slandered, lied about, rejected, put down, innocent yet crucified.

**Rom 8:17***...if we suffer w/ Him we shall also reign w/ Him.* Jesus is exalted when we bear up under mistreatment & suffering.

**6** **But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;**

Those who graduate from the school of pain & suffering receive diplomas "comforted by God" & now qualified to comfort others.

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But if you've come thru the trial kicking & screaming, shaking your fist at God, you disqualified yourself. Yet God is faithful to re-test all who have failed

**7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.**

*Firmly grounded hope* -In spite of failings God will finish what He started based--**Foundation** to build upon-immovable-will not fail—**God's word-**  
**Ps119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction; for Thy word has revived me. Ps 119:143 Trouble & anguish have taken hold on me yet thy commandments are my delight. Ps 119:92 Unless Your law had been my delight I should then have perished in my affliction**

**8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;**

**9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;**

**10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,**

What affliction? No clue to severity that Paul went thru. Doesn't give details of how deep the hurt was---but the experience was *beyond endurance*.

**Acts 19 / 27:20 all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.**

**'man's extremities are Gods opportunities'**

Arab proverb **'All sunshine makes a desert.'** When things always go well it gives a false sense of independence-*I can handle*.

Those who like to glory in telling tales of woe....*woe is me*. And those who suffer in silence, not talking about it but trusting God in it.

Tertullian says: *fighting w/ wild beast in arena at Ephesus*. Or *Demetrius the silversmith in Ephesus*. Or *plots and attempts on Paul's life*. Or *a series of persecutions touched off by Ephesian riot*. Still other's *torment Paul felt over the condition of Church at Corinth*

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### 2Corinthians 1:5-23

Some believe *'the thorn in the flesh.'* Corinthian church failed to see because of pettiness, in fighting, shallow love, smallness of heart.

If *Thorn*-chronic illness, deliverance came by acceptance—teaching Paul-power perfected in weakness-glory in Gods grace which is greater than any affliction. Whatever condition of adversity-*He is faithful whatever the outcome*

**11** you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many.

*Join* only here in Grk NT; made up of 3 words: with, under & work-picture of laborers under the burden to get the job done. -*prayer*-of Paul's 13/14 (Heb) letters in at least 7 he asks for prayer.

He looked to God but also prayer--a mystery--dependence, praise & giving thanks--we part of God's answer. God can do w/o us but we co-labor, draw near & part of answer-knits us to Him & each other. *Ladies brakes*(shoes)

**12** For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you. **13** For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end; **14** just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the **day of our Lord Jesus**.

*Conscience* 23X's in writings-Lat. *with* & *to know* - the inner voice that *knows with* the spirit & approves or disapproves. Bearing witness to things of God. **Rom 2:14-16** *conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,*

*Proud confidence* - Nothing to hide, trustworthy. He is accused of insincerity (*change plans*)--self appointed. No hidden agenda *NS Pilgrims* **15** *And in this confidence I intended at first to come to you, that you might twice receive a blessing; 16 that is, to pass your way into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea. 17 Therefore, I was not vacillating when I intended to do this, was I? Or that which I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yes, yes and no, no at the same time? 18 But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.* Not always sure yet planning *man plans God directs* *Can't steer car not..*

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### 2Corinthians 1:5-23

Good intentions but plans change. **Let yes/yes & no/no no vow Mat 5:37**  
**1Cor 16: 5 But I shall come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia; 6 and perhaps I shall stay with you, or even spend the winter, that you may send me on my way wherever I may go. 7 For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.**

**James 4: 13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."**

**19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. 20 For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.**

Honesty, integrity of man/woman of God--witness and the walk must go together. Can't preach Christ & glorify Him & practice deception. A conscience where Jesus rules will not allow it. Hypocrites preach cream & live skim milk. Eventually a persons true character will show thru.

There is no two-face talk about Jesus yes & no at same time--only eternal yes. All promises of God are yes & amen in Christ Jesus to glory of God  
 Good conscience is clear of guilt--not fearing facing God or ashamed to stand before others. Paul is no manipulator of people to support an extravagant lifestyle or get away w/ sinful behavior

**21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ & anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us & gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. 23 But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. 24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm.**

Establish a word of guarantee— promise to fulfill an agreement between 2 parties. What offered & delivered is as advertised-both goods & services.

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Holy Spirit the **pledge assurance** cannot fail—God stands behind His word & work by sealing us w/ Holy Spirit so that we now belong to Christ--**His possession**

Holy Spirit is God's down payment, His stamp of ownership that soon He will take us to heaven w/ Him.

***Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.***

***Shepherding*** movement—control, ***lord it over***, act as spiritual dictators not servants—want to be masters, tyrants--false teachers had0 snuck into church **2 Cor 11** who turned converts away from Paul. ***Pr 18:18; 26:22 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.*** **Glen Powell**

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