

God is a God of Comfort/Grace

2 Corinthians 1:3-11; Ephesians 2:8

What is comfort? By Merriam Webster, comfort is an easing of something – not a taking away completely. Every parent knows this feeling for when their small child falls and scrapes their knee they can comfort the child which means they can ease the child's pain, but they can never take it completely away even though that's their desire. Every adult knows this when they see a loved one or friend go through something painful. They want to help and ease their pain but they know they can't take the pain away completely. Can you relate?

The word comfort is so meaningful to Paul in writing this letter that he uses it 10 times in 7 verses. The Greek word used means to *call to one's side, to encourage and strengthen*. So, comfort is about easing the experience of another by being there with the person. Can you think of the times that you have been comforted by someone by their presence and your pain and discomfort eased? Can you also think of the times that you have comforted others by your presence of being there to ease their pain?

Do you experience the comfort of God? Experiencing the comfort of God means that you need to actively seek God and God's comfort. Do you seek God's comfort in your pain or do you simply just sit back and hope it will show up? The key to God's comfort is not expecting God to comfort you the way you want to be comforted but to being open, thankful and grateful for God comforting you in the way that you need it. Can you get out of your own way and let God comfort you the way you need to be comforted? What is blocking you from feeling God's comfort?

God's comfort is always present and never-ending. The goal in life, in the midst of, pain, sorrow, unhappiness, strife, trauma, and challenges is to seek God's comfort and to realize that God knows the best way to comfort. So often we feel we know, but God knows. Are you able to seek God's comfort in God's way and not your way?

Once you feel God's comfort in God's way, you will experience an awakening in your life and want to go comfort others. Paul describes it perfectly in the scripture. Are you ready to feel God's comfort so you can then go comfort others? It is the mission of the Christian to be comforted by God and then go comfort others. That is the mission if you choose to accept it.

Jesus, I seek your comfort in my ways. Help me to seek your comfort in your ways. Let me accept your comfort knowing you know what is best for me. Jesus, once I can feel your comfort, strengthen me so I can be a comfort to others. Amen.

by Rev. David Piltz