1Thess #98

You can not comfort others if you are in disarray.

We will open and then close this chapter today in 1Thessalonians chapter 4. Beginning where we left off in verse 15;

1Thes 4:15 For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Remember there is strength and a matter-of-fact attitude, the Apostle Paul has in teaching these principles.

[1Th 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/16/s_1115016) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

[1Th 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/17/s_1115017) Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

/[1Th 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/18/s_1115018) Therefore, **comfort one another with these words**.

The present tense, imperative mood, commands them to continually comfort and build one another up with THIS TRUTH! \

The Apostle Paul does not seek to comfort or encourage those Bels, but rather commands them to consistently comfort or encourage ‘*one another.’*

Bels are called to grow and assists one another.

Everything does not fall upon the pastor or church leadership.

The present imperative, places upon them the continuing duty to do so, both in private conversation and in the public services.

/Bels need to achieve a greater elevation of Biblical knowledge over time, because they are required to be not only mature but leaders within their circle of family and friends. Spiritual leaders need the right information and the confidence to walk in what they believe. So that others not only follow, they also feel comfort and secure. In time they will become a leader for others as well. \

Uneducated and weak Bels are the worse role models and spiritual leaders and sadly they touch their family and friends every day.

We live in a day and age when everyone wants a hero or someone else to rescue them or do the heavy lifting for them.

Most educated Christians, especially pastors and theologians understand the Bible teaches that there will be an important seven-year period of history before the Battle of Armageddon and the triumphant return of Jesus - called the 2nd Advent.

The debate about the rapture and removal of Bels, centers on where it fits in with this final seven-year period, within theology, known as the Great Tribulation, which was spoken of by Christ HIMSELF in [Matthew 24:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/24/21/s_953021).

/Mat 24:21 “For **then there will be a great tribulation,** such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will *again.\*

Matthew 24 has several levels of teaching that the apostles were being enlighten on. Because Jesus speaks about the coming events of the end times in certain stages.

With birth pains before the 7 years of Tribulation, which is most likely pointing to what is beginning to happen now leading up to the Rapture.

Jesus even warned the apostles that they personally will face their own tribulation of attacks.

In verse 15 Jesus begins to highlight the prophecy taught in the book of Daniel, which points us to the 7-year Tribulation.

 REPEAT

All Bels have to reach a point of understanding exactly what they believe will unfold, because it will affect others in their periphery.

There are 4 basic theological teachings that point us to the Rapture;

/The *pre-tribulation rapture* - Believers are caught up just before this final seven-year period unfolds.

This is what the Bible points us to concerning the Rapture, this is also exactly what the Apostle Paul taught.\

This is the teaching I promote and I stand by. (PRE-TRIB Rapture)

/The *mid-tribulation rapture* - Believers are caught up in the middle (3 ½ yr) of this final seven-year period, just when Satan is fully revealed.

The *pre-wrath rapture* - Believers are caught up at some obscure time in the second half of this final seven-year period. \

The pre-wrath Rapture is very vague from what I have read about it.

/The *post-tribulation rapture* - Believers are caught up at the end of this final seven-year period.

This actually convolutes the Bema Seat Judgment and the Great White Throne. Along with teaching people that no matter what you do now, you will suffer the wrath of God for 7 years. \

Turn to 2Corinthians chapter one RF.

If the Apostle Paul believed Christians would go through the great tribulation, he would have spoken boldly, that the dead in Christ are fortunate for missing out on it.

 Jesus would have told HIS apostles to teach the principle that those Bels who die are lucky not to be alive for the Tribulation.

The teaching was always a warning that those who are still here after the rapture should take cover for what will unfold.

*Whoa to those who* - are here for the wrath of God’s judgment.

It would have been logical for Paul to comfort the Thessalonians with the idea that the dead in Jesus were better off because they won’t have to experience the Great Tribulation.

The Apostle Paul clearly teaches that those who are alive when the Rapture occurs will go up to meet TLJC in the clouds of the air – he teaches a removal before the wrath!

If you do not have good spiritual discernment which only comes from accurately handling the WORD. You become part of the emotional waves of nonsense and lies that many Christians buy into.

Ask yourself …can you comfort another Bel who is confused or following false doctrine?

After a Bel learns the right way to speak the gospel with accuracy, they should step up to the next level of growth.

In 2Corinthians we see a young pastor delivering a message to Bels who needed to fall back in line.

 Timothy was the one delivering the letter and set in charge of helping align this group of lost Bels.

/2Cor 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies and God of all comfort**,

All Bels learn that God’s grace and mercy bring true comfort. Your comfort and security come from God’s grace plan, which is only realized in our union with Christ! \

There is no challenge, problem or affliction that we can not overcome or sustain ourselves through, that is not found within our union with Christ.

God’s mercy is HIS grace plan in action.

/[2Co 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/4/s_1079004) **who comforts**(*parakaleō*)**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.

The grace plan of God the Father is that HIS mercy, love and forgiveness operate in abundance for those who adjust to the justice of God.\

PARA-CAH-LAYO, is where we get our word *paraklētos* (PARA-CLETUS) from – the comforter, the one who goes before us, our personal counselor - GOD the Holy Spirit.

/Jhn 14:26 “But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.

The Helper – *paraklētos,* one who gives legal advice, one who walks alongside or guides us. One who gives aid. \

Your comfort and security are dependent upon your union with Christ. So, your ability to comfort and bring others security is dependent upon what you do with that unique, union you have with TLJC.

/[2Co 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/5/s_1079005) For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, **so also our comfort is abundant through Christ**.

Carrying our own cross and facing the adversity of the devil’s world is real, yet so too is the abundance of power inside God’s grace plan. \

You have to do it through the power of your new nature – through Jesus Christ.

[2Co 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/6/s_1079006) 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;

No one ever suffers any adversity that has not been faced before by another Christian.

[2Co 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/7/s_1079007) and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are partners in our sufferings, so also you are in our comfort.

/Bels who reach levels of maturity and learn to apply faith and the problem- solving skills, become examples and inspiration for others. When mature Bels face adversity they are put on display for the angelic conflict – on display for angelic and human viewing. Fulfilling the same role as the apostles did 2,000 years ago, (Heb 21:1-2) \

Also fulfilling a role as JOB did thousands of years ago as well.

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let’s run with endurance the race that is set before us,

[Heb 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/12/2/s_1145002) looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

God’s perfect plan is executed by flawed creatures who adjust to God’s justice system. They learn to walk in a divine nature, shedding that fleshly nature each and every day.

The battle was won on the cross – you make a decision every day to walk in the new nature or keep trying to put on a dead, stinking, fleshly nature.

The comfort and strength you give to others comes from your relationship with GOD;

/Isa 66:12 For this is what the LORD says: “Behold, **I extend peace to her** like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And **you will be nursed,** you will be carried on the hip and rocked back and forth on the knees. 13 “**As one whom his mother comforts**, so I will comfort you; And **you will be comforted in Jerusalem.**”\

Israel is a picture of the soul of the CA Bel.

The nursing mother is not always a role we see God in - yet HE fulfills all aspects of taking care of HIS people. The HS is often shown in a motherly role as well.

God wants to comfort us, yet notice the stipulation – *Jerusalem*, which is a place inside the plan of God.

/We have to put ourself in the right position to reap true blessings in the temporal. When your life is in disarray from cosmic influence and lack of BD you are in a position outside of where you can reap full divine benefits. The simple fact in the natural and spiritual is - a person with an unorganized life, cannot assist others in organizing their life. \

Just as a person in poverty cannot lift another person out of poverty – nor can a foolish person give wisdom to another.

You have to put yourself in positions of knowledge and spiritual strength.

The more consistent you are with BD and the filling power of God the HS, the more you will place yourself in a position of growth.

This means you are inside the plan of GOD habitually.

 REPEAT

/Psa 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
**I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me**.

Those who walk strong even in the face of death – have had a life adjusting to God’s justice and allowing HIS WORD to guide and comfort them. \

The rod points to discipline – God’s justice system and the staff is HIS word to guide us.

/Psa 119:76 May **Your favor comfort** (nacham) **me**, According to Your word to Your servant. 77 May Your compassion come to me so that I may live, For **Your Law is my delight**.

Your comfort, relief and encouragement happen in FAVOR (fellowship) with God. The reference is being in fellowship and in the WORD (BD- LAW). \

Therefore, the two power options I highlight all the time are in view. This is what puts you dead center in God’s grace plan.

NAH-KAM, speaks to consoling or bringing a person relief, yet it also was used to show a form of repentance and how that brings comfort in the end.

/Your comfort and security are directly linked to your humility to submit to the power and plan of God. Just as you humbled yourself at salvation and adjusted to God’s justice system we are called to keep short accounts in our OSN. Your humility and desire to grow in God’s grace and knowledge will be a determining factor of comfort and security in your life. \