



God Of All Comfort
2nd Corinthians 1:3-4

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- Rest implies the relaxing or letting down of chords or strings which have been strained or drawn tight
- Implies compassion, comfort

Comfort - to lessen the sadness or sorrow of someone and to strengthen by inspiring with hope and restoring a cheerful outlook

- Biblically - to give strength and hope to, to ease the grief or trouble of
- To walk along beside

Jesus needed comfort

- **Luke 22:42-43 NIV** 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”
43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened (comforted) him.
- The apostle Paul had had a really long stretch of sufferings

- **2nd Corinthians 1:8-9a NIV** 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.
- But he learned something about his awesome God

2nd Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

As a human that walks this earth and as a Christian saved by God's grace, hardship will walk into our lives

- Sometimes like a storm that slowly comes over time
- Sometimes like a freight train plowing into something on the tracks
- **Psalms 34:19 KJV** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

As a human that walks this earth and as a Christian saved by God's grace, hardship will walk into our lives

- **Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 NLT** 22 So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? 23 Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

The apostle Paul was a great man of faith that God has used in spectacular ways during his life

- **Acts 19:11-12 NIV** 11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

The apostle Paul was a great man of faith that God has used in spectacular ways during his life

- And yet, he found himself beaten, stoned, left for dead, shipwrecked, imprisoned, isolated, rejected, physical hardships that left him weak
- But during this time, Paul learn a great lesson on the compassion and comfort of God

Paul learned that praising God is the key to enduring hardships

- Paul learned to focus on the God of his circumstances rather than the circumstances themselves
- **Psalms 121:1-2 NIV** 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Paul learned that praising God is the key to enduring hardships

- Paul began this letter with praise
 - “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - Does this sound like a man who has given up, grown harsh and bitter?

Paul learned that praising God is the key to enduring hardships

- He certainly could not sing about his circumstances, but he could sing about the God who is in control of all circumstances
- Warren Wiersbe, “Praise changes things, just as much as prayer changes things.”

Paul learned that praising God is the key to enduring hardships

- You will find the phrase, “blessed be God” in two other places in the New Testament
 - **Ephesians 1:3-4** Paul praised God for what he did in the past when he “choose us in Christ”
 - **1st Peter 1:3** Peter praised God for future blessings and a “living hope”

Paul learned that praising God is the key to enduring hardships

- In our scriptures today, Paul praises God for His present blessings
 - For what He has accomplished in his life from the suffering and walking through Paul's sufferings with him

Paul learned to praise God for that which will never change, fade or be stolen, Jesus Christ

- **1st Peter 1:3-4 NIV** 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

Paul learned to praise God for that which will never change, fade or be stolen, Jesus Christ

- Praise God because of Jesus Christ the Messiah—Why?
- It was because of Jesus that we can call God, “Father” and even approach Him as His children
- God sees us in His Son and loves us as He loves His Son
– **John 17:23**
- Whatever God did for Jesus when He was ministering on earth, He is able to do for us today

Paul learned to praise God for that which will never change, fade or be stolen, Jesus Christ

- We are dear to the Father because His Son is dear to Him
- We are citizens of “the kingdom of His Son whom He loves” – **Colossians 1:13**
- We are precious to the Father and He will see to it that the pressures of life will not destroy us
- These never change or fade away, they are eternal

Paul learned that God is the ultimate authority of compassion (mercies) and comfort

- To the Jewish mind, the phrase “father of” means originator of or it start with
 - Satan is the father of lies because lies originated with him – **John 8:44**
- God is the Father of mercies/compassion because true mercy/compassion originates with Him and can be secured only from Him

Paul learned that God is the ultimate authority of compassion (mercies) and comfort

- God in His grace gives us what we do not deserve, and in His mercy He does not give us what we do deserve
- **Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV** 22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Paul learned that God is the ultimate authority of compassion (mercies) and comfort

- Not only in compassion but in His comfort, we are healed
- We must not think of comfort as sympathy – sympathy can weaken us instead of strengthening us
- God does not pat us on the head and give us a piece of candy or new shiny toy to distract us
- He puts strength into our hearts so we can face our trials and triumph over them

Paul learned that God is the ultimate authority of compassion (mercies) and comfort

- The Greek word for comfort is to “come along beside and help”
- Same word used for the Holy Spirit
- God encourages us through His Word, His Holy Spirit and at times His people

Paul learned that God is the ultimate authority of compassion (mercies) and comfort

- When you find yourself discouraged because of difficult circumstances, it is easy to look at yourself and your feelings, or to focus on the problems around you
- The first step we must take is to look by faith to the Lord and realize all that God is to us

Paul learned that God uses those who have walked through or are walking through trouble now, to walk along beside those needing compassion and comfort today

- God comforts us so he can use us to comfort others for Him
- There are some sufferings that we endure simply because we are human and subject to pain
- There are some sufferings that come because we are God's people and desire to serve Him

Paul learned that God uses those who have walked through or are walking through trouble now, to walk along beside those needing compassion and comfort today

- We must never think suffering is an accident
- For the believer, everything is a divine appointment

Paul learned that God uses those who have walked through or are walking through trouble now, to walk along beside those needing compassion and comfort today

- There are three possible outlooks a person can take when it comes to the trials of life
 - Simply a product of fate or chance – our only recourse is to give up, no one can control fate

Paul learned that God uses those who have walked through or are walking through trouble now, to walk along beside those needing compassion and comfort today

- There are three possible outlooks a person can take when it comes to the trials of life
 - We control everything ourselves – this situation is equally hopeless

Paul learned that God uses those who have walked through or are walking through trouble now, to walk along beside those needing compassion and comfort today

- There are three possible outlooks a person can take when it comes to the trials of life
 - But if God is in control, and we trust Him, then we can overcome circumstances with His help

In times of suffering, most of us are prone to think only of ourselves and forget others

- We become cisterns instead of channels, we turn inward
- One reason for trials is so that you and I might learn to be channels of blessings to comfort and encourage others
- We don't have to have exactly the same experience or know exactly the right words to say

In times of suffering, most of us are prone to think only of ourselves and forget others

- Most of the time, comfort comes in knowing we are not alone
- Trust the Holy Spirit for the right words, if words are even needed
- Because God has encouraged us, we can encourage others

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

- What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it- that He knows me. I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him because He first knew me, and there is no moment when His eye is off me, His attention distracted from me, and no moment, therefore, when His care falters.

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

- This is momentous knowledge. There is unspeakable comfort... in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love and watching over me for my good. There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love is utterly realistic; based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench His determination to bless me.



Matthew 28:20b NLT And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”