

## WHERE TO FIND PEACE AND CONSOLATION

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Sooner or later everyone will need "a shoulder to cry on," or someone to be a friend, to help bring peace, to just be there as tragedy or misfortune occurs in a person's life. It is so wonderful that somehow some people, even though they either have just gone through tragedy or are at the present also going through difficult times can be of such comfort to others who seem to be in need. Why is it that some can comfort others while enduring tragedy themselves and still be able to help others?

### I. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF TRUE COMFORT?

1. Sadly, most people seek comfort in "all the wrong places."
  - Some think that their problems are no different than anybody else's.
  - Some think that things will improve over a little more time.
  - Some believe that nothing can help.
  - Some try to pretend it didn't happen and try to forget.
  - Some try to get it off their mind by changing their life style.
  - Some just gripe and complain to everybody they meet.
2. Actually the only source of genuine, true comfort comes from God.
  - That is why He is called "The God of all comfort." (2 Corinthians 1:3)
  - So why only God?
    - God is also the "Father of mercies." (2 Corinthians 1:3)
      - He is the source, being the "Father."
      - He is the source of all kinds of goodness and mercy. (James 1:17)
    - Comfort is only one of God's many mercies:
      - He is the "God of all comfort." (2 Corinthians 1:3)
      - He is the "God of patience and comfort." (Romans 15:5)
  - There is absolutely no limitation to all the comfort God provides.

### II. WHEN DOES GOD GIVE TRUE COMFORT?

1. God's comfort, consolation is given whenever difficulties, tribulation, comes to any of His children.
  - God provides comfort when it is needed the most. (2 Corinthians 1:4)
  - God never deserts His Children in their time of need.
    - Hebrews 13:5
    - He will never allow any of His children to be tempted beyond their ability to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
    - Even when death is at the door, God is there to comfort His children. Psalm 23:4
  - The greater the affliction, tragedy, trouble, the greater the comfort God will provide. 2 Corinthians 1:5
    - As the sufferings grow, so does God's comfort and consolation.
2. God's comfort, consolation comes through His Son, Jesus Christ.
  - 2 Corinthians 1:5
    - As with all other spiritual blessings, it also comes through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:3
    - In order to receive God's comfort, then one must "be in Christ."
  - When one is "in Christ," there are two ways God's comfort is given:
    - The Word of God and Prayer. (Romans 15:4; Philippians 4:6-7)

### III. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S COMFORT?

1. God comforts His Children so they might in turn be of comfort to others.
  - 2 Corinthians 1:4
  - God's comfort provided through Jesus is not just for a single person's private use.
  - God does not comfort His children to make them comfortable, but to make them "comforters."
    - The comfort believers receive from God is to be shared!
2. Examples of God's comfort being shared:
  - God comforted Paul. 2 Corinthians 7:4-7; 13
    - The Corinthians comforted Titus in the way they received him.
    - Titus, comforted by the Corinthians, then comforted Paul.
    - Paul saw that through all this, the source of his comfort started from God.
  - God uses more than one source to comfort His children:
    - It can come directly from God through His Word. Romans 15:4
    - I can come indirectly from God through others. 1 Thessalonians 4:18
  - Sadly, most people pay no attention to all the ways (avenues) God offers true comfort.
    - Many do not study God's Word or pray so miss out on direct comfort from God.
    - Many do not develop relationships with other Christians who might be a source of comfort.

### IV. RESULTS OF RECEIVING TRUE COMFORT FROM GOD

1. There is gratitude, mixed with adoration.
  - Paul expressed his gratitude when he wrote: "...Blessed be the God and Father..." 2 Corinthians 1:3
  - In receiving true comfort from God, Paul wanted to praise God for it.
2. It is natural to praise God for the comfort He gives His children.
  - Whenever one of God's children receive comfort from Him, it is natural to praise God.
  - It seems only the natural thing to do to pass on comfort to others because of the comfort one receives from God.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Have YOU ever received some of God's true comfort?
  - If not, perhaps YOU were looking in the wrong place for it comes ONLY from almighty God and it comes ONLY through His Son, Jesus Christ.
  - Are YOU in Christ?
2. If YOU are a Christian, a child of God, then remember to "comfort each other and edify one another..."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14
3. God stands ready to comfort every single one of His children in their time of difficulty, tragedy, turmoil, etc.