

## 2 Corinthians

### Lesson 1

“...the God of all comfort,”

2 Cor. 1:3-11

## Introduction

- When trials come, we seek for comfort, encouragement hoping to overcome them
- We look for friends to sympathize and help us through troubles
- But when facing trials, even death, we should look to the only true source of comfort, the God of all comfort
- God, who raises the dead, has promised to comfort us in all trials including death

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## Introduction

- To receive this comfort, we must be willing to trust and serve Him, the God of all comfort
- Through His Word, answering prayers and using fellow-Christians in His service, God provides comfort in all trials
- God's comfort not only helps us in our trials but also helps us to comfort others in their trials, to God's glory

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## Paul Writes Second Corinthians From Macedonia

Act 20:1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.

Act 20:2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

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## Paul Writes Second Corinthians From Macedonia

2Co 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

2Co 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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## Brief Introduction To Second Corinthians

- First Corinthians had been a letter of many rebukes for sins and urging repentance
- Second Corinthians is written probably after visits from Timothy, maybe Paul and Titus with the church encouraging repentance
- Paul writes out of deep anguish and concern that they continue to turn from sin and do not reject his apostolic authority which false teachers encouraged

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### Paul's Concern For Continued Repentance and Submission To The Gospel

2Co 12:11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.

2Co 12:19 All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you. *Actually*, it is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ; and all for your upbuilding, beloved.

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### Paul's Concern For Continued Repentance and Submission To The Gospel

2Co 12:20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps *there will be* strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

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### Paul's Concern For Continued Repentance and Submission To The Gospel

2Co 12:21 I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

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### Paul's Concern For Continued Repentance and Submission To The Gospel

2Co 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

2Co 13:2 I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest *as well*, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*,

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## Brief Introduction To Second Corinthians

- But, Paul also writes out of deep love and joy being comforted by Titus' return and report of their repentance and expressing loving discipline to save a sinning brother
- And, in spite of facing trials in Macedonia and Corinth, he expresses hope in Christ that they will continue to repent before he comes to them again

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### Paul Comforted By Their Repentance and Hopes For Continued Repentance

2Co 7:2 Make room for us *in your hearts*; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

2Co 7:3 I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

2Co 7:4 Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

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## Paul Comforted By Their Repentance and Hopes For Continued Repentance

2Co 7:5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

2Co 7:6 But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

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## Paul Comforted By Their Repentance and Hopes For Continued Repentance

2Co 7:7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

2Co 7:16 I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.

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## God Is The Source Of All Comfort

- Paul states God is the source of all comfort
- In fact, God is the source of all mercies and goodness in the world
- All other sources of comfort are empty

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## God Is The Source Of All Comfort

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

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## God Is The Father of All Mercies

Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

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## Empty Sources of Comfort

1. Material possessions
2. Sexual sins, alcohol and drugs
3. Worldly accomplishments
4. Physical strength and beauty
5. False religious teaching
6. Approval of others

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## What Is Comfort?

1. paraklesis (G3874), means "a calling to one's side" (para, "beside," kaleo, "to call"); hence, either "an exhortation, or consolation, comfort,"...

From Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

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## When Does God Provide Comfort?

2Co 1:4 who comforts 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.

2Co 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

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## When Does God Provide Comfort?

1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

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## When Does God Provide Comfort?

Psa 23:1 **A Psalm of David.** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psa 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

Psa 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

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## When Does God Provide Comfort?

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.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

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## When Does God Provide Comfort?

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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## When Does God Provide Comfort?

Heb 13:5 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Heb 13:6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

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## To Whom Does God Provide Comfort?

- God provides comfort through Christ to those who are in Christ
- To be in Christ, means we become and live as Christians through obeying the gospel of Christ

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## God Provides Comfort Through Christ

2Co 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

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## All Spiritual Blessing Including Comfort Are In Christ

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

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## How Do We Get Into and Remain In Christ?

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

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## "...the God of all comfort,"

1. Brief introduction to Second Corinthians
2. Who is the source of all comfort?
3. What is comfort?
4. When does God provide comfort?
5. To whom does God provide comfort?
6. What is the purpose of God's comfort?
7. How does God provide comfort?

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## What Is The Purpose Of God's Comfort?

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

2Co 1:4 who comforts 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.

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## What Is The Purpose Of God's Comfort?

2Co 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

2Co 1:6 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;

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## What Is The Purpose Of God's Comfort?

2Co 1:7 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.

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## God Uses The Corinthians, Titus and Paul To Comfort One Another

2Co 7:4 Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

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2Co 7:6 But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

2Co 7:7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

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## God Uses The Corinthians, Titus and Paul To Comfort One Another

2Co 7:13 For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

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## How Does God Provide Comfort?

- All comfort given and received must be consistent with God's revealed will, the Scriptures
- All comfort is designed to encourage us to become and live as Christians and encourage others to do the same
- Comfort is not designed to make us feel good about and justify our sins but rather to mourn over and turn from our sins to the mercy of God

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## How Does God Provide Comfort?

1. The Scriptures
2. God answers Christians' prayers by delivering us from trials
3. Christians live faithfully and serve one another

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## Comfort Through The Scriptures

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

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## Comfort Through The Scriptures

2Pe 3:15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

2Pe 3:16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

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## Comfort Through The Scriptures

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

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## Comfort Through The Scriptures

1Th 4:15 For this we say 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.

1Th 4:16 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.

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## Comfort Through The Scriptures

1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

2Co 1:8 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;

2Co 1:9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

2Co 1:10 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,

2Co 1:11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

2Ti 4:16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

2Ti 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

2Ti 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

1Th 4:16 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.

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

Rom 15:30 Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,

Rom 15:31 that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and *that* my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints;

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## God Answers Christians' Prayers By Delivering Us From Trials

Rom 15:32 so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find *refreshing* rest in your company.

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

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## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Act 4:36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),

Act 4:37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Act 11:23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord;

Act 11:24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

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## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

1Th 3:7 for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

1Th 3:8 for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

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## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, 55

## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. 56

## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Php 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

Php 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 57

## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Php 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Php 2:4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 58

## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Php 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Php 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 59

## Christians Live Faithfully And Serve One Another

Php 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

Php 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 60

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