

"THE COMFORT OF GOD"
ISAIAH 40:1

INTRO: Many people are in situations where they need COMFORT but cannot find it through human resources. The need of COMFORT comes for many reasons and from many circumstances and so often the ability to be COMFORTED by another person is just not possible. **BUT THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD IS THE "GOD OF ALL COMFORT" AND IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE AND ALWAYS HAS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE COMFORT WE NEED.** So today, let's talk a bit about the **COMFORT OF GOD FROM ISAIAH 40:1.**

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NOTE: In Isaiah 40 God was leading Isaiah to comfort Judah as they were in the **BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY** and was giving them hope for the future restoration.

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NOTE: **AT THE TIME OF THIS MESSAGE THERE ARE MANY IN OUR NATION AND CHURCH FAMILY WHO NEED THE COMFORT THAT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE!**

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PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ON THE COMFORT OF GOD

I. WHAT DOES THE WORD "COMFORT" MEAN" IN SCRIPTURE?

A. A basic study of the Hebrew and Greek words for COMFORT in scripture reveals that "COMFORT" means: **"To sigh; To breathe strongly; To be sorry; To console; To come to one's side; To exhort; To Speak with tenderness; To soothe; To Encourage."**

B. All of this is what God does for His children when they go through times of needing COMFORT.

ILLUSTRATION: **Psalm 71:19-21**

II. WHY DOES GOD COMFORT US?

- A. Because We Belong to Him - **We are His Children!**
- B. Because He Understands Us - **He made us and knows us!**
- C. Because He Loves Us - **With an everlasting love!**
- D. Because He it is His Nature to Comfort - **He is the God of all Comfort!**
- E. Because He is the Only One Who can truly Enable Us - **With His Power**
- F. Because He Wants to Comfort Us - **For His Honor and Glory**

ILLUSTRATION:

III. HOW DOES GOD COMFORT US?

A. By His Word - **As we read He directs comforts us with passages.**

- 1. Psalm 30:5
- 2. Matthew 5:4

B. By His Holy Spirit - **Who has been sent to be our Comforter**

- 1. John 14:15-18; 26
- 2. John 15:26

C. By His People - **Other believers**

- 1. 2 Corinthians 7:5-7

2. In this text Paul is continuing the narrative of 2 Corinthians 2:13 where Paul said that he **"HAD NO REST" in his spirit.** Paul had a great concern for the Church at Corinth and was so burdened that he was unable to give his full attention to his ministry. He had no rest **OUTWARDLY** due to the conflicts in the church, and **INWARDLY** because the church had an **"ANTI-PAUL"** attitude. He was cast down, but through the coming and good report from Titus he was comforted. **GOD DID THIS FOR PAUL!**

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. WHEN DOES GOD COMFORT US?

A. Every moment of the day he provides some comfort through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit - John 14:18 = **"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU COMFORTLESS!"**

B. Exactly on time

1. Psalm 46:1 = "**VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE**"
2. Hebrews 4:16 = "**GRACE TO HELP IN THE TIME OF NEED**"

ILLUSTRATION:

V. HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO GOD'S COMFORT?

1. 2 Corinthians 1:3 - We are to "**BLESS GOD.**"
2. 2 Corinthians 1:4 - We are to "**COMFORT OTHERS.**"

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/LESSON:

God will comfort us **IF WE LET HIM!** He may not take away the circumstance that is causing the difficulty, **BUT IN THE MIDST OF THE CIRCUMSTANCE HE WILL PROVIDE COMFORT.** **HOW DO WE LET GOD COMFORT US?**

- 1) Recognize that He is the **GOD OF ALL COMFORT.**
- 2) Realize that He has a purpose for the burden.
- 3) Rest in the promise that **HE WILL COMFORT US.**
- 4) Rely upon Him for the **STRENGTH AND COURAGE WE NEED.**