



# THE COMFORT OF GOD

## INTRODUCTION

We all find ourselves in need of great comfort during our lifetime. Painful discouragements, unresolved problems, unrealized dreams, a broken heart and often unending suffering and sorrow will deeply afflict our hearts and plague our emotional well-being.

Real inward comfort is unavailable except through Jesus Christ. Isaiah said of our Suffering Servant that He is *despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*. . . *surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows* (Isaiah 53:3, 4). In Him alone can we find the true and deep spiritual comfort we are longing for. *I, even I, am He that comforts you* (Isaiah 51:12).

## THEME SCRIPTURE

*The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,<sup>1</sup> and saves such as have a contrite spirit<sup>2</sup>* (Psalm 34:18).

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<sup>1</sup> *broken heart*: burst, break (down, off, in pieces); crush, destroy, hurt, quench.

<sup>2</sup> *contrite spirit* – Hebrew *dakka* crushed: destroyed; a rational being that is crushed or broken in spirit.

## SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *comfort*. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Dictionary Definition

The Webster definition for *comfort* is to give strength and hope to: cheer, to ease the grief or trouble of: console.

### Biblical Definitions

The Biblical Hebrew word for God's *comfort* in the Old Testament is *nacham* to sigh: breathe strongly, by implying to be sorry, to pity, console or rue (to feel sorrow over), ease oneself.

The Biblical Greek word for the *comfort* of God is *paraklesis* from *parakaleo* to call near: to invite, to invoke (call upon) by imploration or consolation, to beseech, to give exhortation, pray, solace and encourage.

### Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures on God's comfort. UNDERLINE the words and/or phrases that speak of God's comfort.

Psalm 71:21	<i>You [God] shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.</i>
Psalm 86:17	<i>Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.</i>
Psalm 94:19	<i>In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.</i>
Psalm 119:50	<i>This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your Word has given me life.</i>
Isaiah 49:13	<i>Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.</i>
Isaiah 57:18	<i>I have seen his ways [backslider], and will heal him; I will also lead him, and restore comforts to him and to his mourners.</i>
Isaiah 66:13	<i>As one whom his mother comforts, so will I [the LORD] comfort you.</i>

John 14:16-18

*And I [Jesus] will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you (KJV).*

II Corinthians 1:3, 4

*Blessed be God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted of God.*

3. WRITE in your own words what you learned about God's comfort from these Scriptures. \_\_\_\_\_

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## PERSONAL

WRITE about a time when God comforted you. \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION II – The God of All Comfort

### The Shepherd Comforts the Sheep

READ Psalm 23.

As you read Psalm 23 NOTICE the relationship between the young shepherd boy David and his LORD. He knew the LORD as his Divine Shepherd and likened himself as one of His sheep.

1. What did David recognize about the LORD<sup>3</sup> (v. 1)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>3</sup> LORD: self-existent eternal name of God.

2. How did David's Great Shepherd provide spiritual rest to a weary soul (vv. 2, 3a)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was the result? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Where did the Shepherd lead David (v. 3b)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. As a shepherd boy leading his sheep, David walked through perilous valleys that endangered his life, yet he did not fear. What was his comfort (v. 4)?

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5. David understood that the LORD led him to spiritual feeding grounds just as a shepherd leads his sheep to mountain mesa tops to feed. What was present (v. 5)?

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How did the Great Shepherd bring comfort to David? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. As David walked with his Good Shepherd, what did he exclaim would follow him (v. 6)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How long? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was David's joyful expectation? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>4</sup> rod: a short stick used to correct a wayward sheep. The shepherd out of love at times had to break the sheep's legs and carry him to safety.

<sup>5</sup> staff: a long stick with a curved end used to draw the sheep close to the shepherd and the flock and pull him out of danger.

<sup>6</sup> oil: an ointment used to heal and bring comfort; a mixture of oils poured on the sheep's head to protect them from harmful bugs and parasites.

<sup>7</sup> mercy – Hebrew *hesed* kindness: pity, favor, good deed.

## Jesus Comforts the Woman with the Flow of Blood

READ Mark 5:25-34.

1. A great multitude followed and thronged Jesus. What devastating circumstances in the woman's life caused her to pursue Jesus (vv. 25, 26)?

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2. Despite the pressing crowds around Jesus, in her desperation to find healing, restoration and comfort, what did she do (v. 27)?

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3. What did this ailing woman firmly believe (v. 28)? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What did she instantaneously feel surging through her body after touching the hem of Jesus' garment (v. 29)?

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5. At that moment what did Jesus perceive (v. 30)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did Jesus openly ask the crowd? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why were the disciples dumbfounded at His question (v. 31)? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Who did Christ single out from the crowd (v. 32)? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What did the woman fearing and trembling do (v. 33)? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. How did Jesus bring her great comfort (v. 34)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL

What devastating circumstances have occurred to you or someone you know that have caused you to pursue the comfort of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How have you pursued Him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How has He comforted you/them? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Comfort

LOOK-UP the following Scriptures which teach us how to comfort others with the comfort that the Lord has given to us. FILL-IN the blanks with the correct word to complete the Scripture.

Acts 9:31b *And walking [the churches] in the fear of the Lord and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| a. fear   | c. light   |
| b. spirit | d. comfort |

II Corinthians 2:7 . . . you ought rather to \_\_\_\_\_ [the immoral person] and \_\_\_\_\_ him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much \_\_\_\_\_.

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| a. love    | d. forgive   |
| b. comfort | e. sorrow    |
| c. hate    | f. happiness |

II Corinthians 13:11a *Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good \_\_\_\_\_, be of \_\_\_\_\_, live in \_\_\_\_\_; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

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|------------|--------------|
| a. peace   | d. two minds |
| b. strife  | e. one mind  |
| c. comfort | f. health    |

I Thessalonians 4:18 *Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ one another with \_\_\_\_\_.*

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|------------|----------------|
| a. harass  | c. these words |
| b. comfort | d. feelings    |

I Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ each other and \_\_\_\_\_ one another, just as you also are doing.*

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|------------|-----------|
| a. tease   | c. lie to |
| b. comfort | d. edify  |

I Thessalonians 5:14 *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, \_\_\_\_\_ the fainthearted, \_\_\_\_\_ the weak, be \_\_\_\_\_ with all.*

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| a. feel sorry for | d. patient         |
| b. comfort        | e. avoid           |
| c. pick on        | f. uphold, support |

II Thessalonians 2:16, 17 *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ and good \_\_\_\_\_ by grace, \_\_\_\_\_ your hearts and \_\_\_\_\_ you in every good word and work.*

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|------------|----------------|
| a. beat    | d. consolation |
| b. break   | e. hope        |
| c. comfort | f. establish   |

## LOOK DEEPER

Jesus also taught His disciples (students) that the Holy Spirit would be their Comforter. READ John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13-15 and WRITE the functions of the Comforter.

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<sup>8</sup> Helper: the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

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### PERSONAL

From the LOOK DEEPER Scriptures above that describe the Comforter, WRITE a prayer to the LORD expressing your need.

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### WRITE THE THEME SCRIPTURE.

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(Psalm 34:18).

*I, even I, am He who comforts you.*

Isaiah 51:12



NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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