

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. 7 Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Study Guide 2 October 2011 Comfort in Affliction



Summary

We will be looking at God being the God of all comfort who comforts us in our afflictions. It is an encouragement to the body to minister the comfort they have received from Christ to one another.

It is also our call for radical Christian living, knowing that suffering for Christ helps us not to rely on ourselves but to place our trust in our Almighty God.

Key points

Comfort is not the removal of affliction, but the help and strength that is given to us so that we may endure affliction.

Questions

- >>Why doesn't God remove our afflictions? Why does He rather give us strength to endure pain?
- >>What else does this passage tell me about God?
- >>What is my philosophy of suffering? Is it natural? Is it necessary? Is it good? Should I seek to end it? How should I deal with suffering? How should I deal with other people's suffering?
- >>What does this passage show me about myself?
- >>What needs to change about how we receive and give comfort?

Final thoughts

God comforts us so that we may comfort others.