

"YOU'RE GONNA GET THROUGH THIS" (2 Cor. 1:3-11)

INTRO:

5 reasons you're gonna get through this...

1. BECAUSE YOU HAVE A CAPABLE & POWERFUL GOD ON YOUR SIDE (3-4)

3-4) The Corinth church knew pain:

They had suffered persecutions outwardly for following Christ...

They faced divisions & disruptions inwardly because of false doctrines & selfish prideful people (they knew what it was like to face backstabbing & broken relationships)...

They faced immorality & idolatry on a daily basis in their culture & city...everywhere they turned they were grieved by what they saw sin doing to people.

How would they find comfort in it all? By turning to the Lord over and over again.

1) He is the **Father of mercies.**

Mercy = "not getting what you deserve". I deserve judgement because of my sins, but that judgment fell upon Jesus on the cross. So justice for sin is met, & mercy is extended to me - the offender.

2) He is the **God of all comfort.**

comfort (paraklesos) in the New Testament is always more than soothing sympathy, "pat on the back", when I'm hurting. It has the idea of strengthening, of helping, of making strong.

NOTE: God is the source of all I need. Like the sun, He is constantly giving out mercy & comfort without any loss of power - all on, all the time - morning, noon, night you can receive His comfort....no one is beyond the reach of His comfort. No one is too far gone.

How does God comfort me in those times? (4 ways)

1) PROMISES in His Word- strengthens my faith...just as we are reading now!

Is. 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Is. 43:1-2 "But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

2) PEACE found through prayer - settles my heart (Phil. 4:7-8), reminds me God is in control.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

3) PERSON of Jesus - His example & words show me how to walk. Heb. 12:3 - "consider Him lest you become weary & discouraged in your souls"... "consider" = analyze... "to complete a process & come to a reasonable conclusion". Have you "considered" Him? Fix your heart and mind on Him and take comfort in His words and example!

John 16:33. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

4) PEOPLE OF GOD - presence of other believers & their testimony...(Paul was comforted when he met up with Titus - 2 Cor. 7:6)

NOTE: **Everyone on earth understands pain. Some more than others, but we all know it in some degree all throughout our lives.** We live in a sin stained world that is painful. We all have shed tears.

"..that we may be able to...". It's His power working through me, not my strength

"God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters" (John Henry Jowett - British preacher of last century)

NOTE: **God's purposes go far beyond my comforts.** That is why He doesn't alleviate our pains immediately. He wants to use the testimony in your life to reach others. The same God who comforted you can comfort them! You have a capable, compassionate, and powerful God - LOOK UP!

You're gonna get through this...

2. BECAUSE GOD IS DETERMINED TO USE YOUR TESTIMONY IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS (4-7) Look OUT!

some of us are called to preach, others to lead or serve in a ministry area,... but ALL are called to be comforters...to communicate with others how the Spirit of God has helped you through your troubles.

Many people face broken hearts, broken homes, broken lives and need to know there is hope, aid, comfort, strength & help in Jesus! And to do that God often allows us to go through the same trials our neighbors face.

Have you ever said or heard people say, "Where's God when it hurts?"... the reality is 1) He is right there, His Word says so. (Matt 28 - "I am with you always, even to the end of the age")... 2) You are right there as well. God sends His Church to step in as the hands and feet to minister God's comfort to the hurting.

2 things are needful for effective ministry to others in dark times:

1) CONFIDENCE in God (3)...He is the source of all comfort & help. He is able to deal with "this" and deliver me... and even raise the dead if He so desires! (9-10). That's the kind of God we serve!

2) COMPASSION for people (4)...we are called to comfort them in their troubles. (Jesus saw people as lost sheep without a shepherd, had compassion for them!)

I give out only what has been given to me. Paul is writing this from a finished point of "I made it through & you can too".

Had Paul suffered? YES...

2 Cor. 11:23-28 shows us some of Paul's "cuts for Christ" (flogged 5x, 3x beaten with rods, 1x stoned with rocks, shipwrecked 3 times, etc.)

NOTE: **Great ministry often has great suffering attached to it.** BUT with confidence in God & compassion for people, the ministry God put before you will be effective. Through Paul's sufferings they realized "were not alone, this isn't odd...Paul's been in my shoes". And the comfort Paul received, blessed them too..."If he was comforted supernaturally by God, then I will be too."

You're gonna get through this - Look up at your God...Look out @ the opportunity of ministry to others...Look in

3. BECAUSE WHEN YOU THINK IT'S OVER AND YOU'RE GONNA DIE...GOD HASN'T GIVEN UP (8-10)

What Paul faced in Ephesus was not just a "bad day"...it was **"beyond measure & above strength"** (crushing him to the core)....it caused a despairing of life itself. But Paul doesn't end at v.8..."dead end"...v. 9-10 are the hope He found at that low point! (The detour & way out!)

What did Paul face that was so heavy that he thought he would die? 1) Persecutions (Acts 19...soon after writing 1 Corinthians, a riot broke out, Paul thought it was over for him!)...2) personal infirmities & sicknesses (thorn in the flesh)...**"we had the sentence of death IN ourselves" (9)**

NOTE: **sometimes we think it's the people against us that will take us out** (boss over us, neighbor next to us, even that person beside us now!)... or maybe the problem inside us will due us in (our bad health: cancer, disease...or our bad habits)we say, "I can't take it anymore, I quit....I'm done, at death's door...Lord I'm coming home!"...friend, it ain't over until God says it is!

...or maybe figuratively you're facing the death of a vision, death of a marriage, death of a job or friendship! Listen, **Death hurts however it comes my way!** And the threat of death is everywhere, everyday!

But listen...the promise of God still stands strong in the impossible situations (10): **God HAS delivered, DOES deliver, and WILL deliver...**take heart, it's not over yet! God is on the move & He hasn't given up on you!

NOTE: **Past victories build confidence for future victories. Past comfort helps brings rest to current troubles.** When you fear today, look back and see how God has worked before. Let that testimony catapult your faith not only for what you face now, but anything you'll face in the days ahead!

You're gonna get through this...

4. BECAUSE "THIS" MOVES YOU TO FULLY RELY ON GOD, TO SURRENDER COMPLETELY AND LET HIM WORK HIS TESTIMONY IN HIS WAY (9-10)

why does God allow us to be in such difficult deadly situations? So that there is no confidence in my ability...we know personally & can tell others publicly, "it's all God from here on out!"

some live in denial that a trouble is real & hurts...others try in their own strength to show that "I've got this!"...but the believer knows that God is still in control, I belong to Him, I've got a future secure in heaven, & my part today is simply to surrender it all into His hands!

all this so that...We should not trust in ourselves, but in God...**who raises the dead! (9)**

NOTE: it's not "God - who created all things", or "God - who parted the Red Sea"... or "God - who is everywhere at once"...but "God, who raises the dead!"

What's the Significance? **when you are at your end, look to the tomb of Jesus!** Yes, there may be a death to myself & my ways & my world... but in the process there is new life in Christ that comes forth. **The resurrection of Jesus is key to HOPE & comfort, the key to making it through any difficulty we face in this world!** Confidently say, "My God raises the dead!"

Take that issue that seems dead or dying, and give it over to Him. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Sometimes He breathes new life and raises it back miraculously (marriage, finances, health, friendships, etc.)...but other times He let's death be the way to move you on into new life with Him. Faith must be exercised in the face of life & death.

You're gonna get through this...

5. BECAUSE OTHERS WHO LOVE YOU & WANT YOU TO SUCCEED IN JESUS ARE PRAYING FOR YOU (11)

11) Paul's person and ministry were undergirded by prayer. How effective are the prayers of the saints for others? We will find out when we get to Heaven...how many times they made the difference between life and death, success and failure, saved and not saved?

J. Edgar Hoover said, "The spectacle of a nation praying is more awe-inspiring than the explosion of an atomic bomb. The force of prayer is greater than any possible combination of man-made or man-controlled powers, because prayer is man's greatest means of tapping the infinite resources of God. Invoking by prayer the mercy and might of God is our most effective means of guaranteeing peace and security for the harassed and helpless peoples of the earth."

So pray knowing you are effecting eternities & helping others get through their troubles!

Don't neglect the prayers of the saints. They are a powerful tool God uses to bring comfort to broken lives.

...in that time of despair, Paul found relief in Jesus...You're gonna get through "this" (whatever this is)...why? "Because I've seen how God delivers! I know it personally...and what He's done for me, He will do for you as well."

PRAY/ BAPTISMS