

D. L. Nicely Ministries
Teaching Newsletter
Secret place
Volume 6...Issue 4 part 1
April 10

Issue 4...God's Promise of Comfort

One thing that almost no Christian considers when they become a Christian is that they are in warfare. We by nature are creatures of comfort and we don't like pain and suffering. In fact many well meaning pastors have preached a gospel that promises peace, happiness and the absence of suffering to get people to the altar. I on the other hand believe that we should hand them a rifle and bayonet to get them ready for the fight. Friends we must fight the good fight of faith as the apostle Paul put to his protégé Timothy. And with that being said let us know that there are many battlefronts that we are fighting on.

Whether you realize it or not you are a soldier—a soldier of Jesus Christ. And daily you will fight in many battles. Wars at home, at work, and even at church are quite common in today's fast-paced world.

Now before you lose track and get the wrong idea let me talk to you today about comfort. Yes God is the God of comfort in fact look at this wonderful promise of God's world.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

So what causes most of our afflictions? Why it's the desire to want to live Godly. If you go against the flow of the world and its system that you are so used to just flowing in you will suffer for it. The bible says that the world is our enemy (*the church*) and it hates us.

To fully understand God's comfort you must understand these three things.

1—God's comfort is just a part of His nature... Now if you don't understand God or have no relationship with Him and you read the bible with little understanding you could come to the conclusion that God is a vengeful, angry, deity that takes pleasure in afflicting pain on His creation. But as we examine the scripture that we just read we will find out that nothing could be further from the truth. This promise of comfort reveals God as the Father of mercies. It's not something that He does its part of His very nature to be merciful. When we read Psalms 103 we see that God is the God of compassion and loving kindness. Friend's compassion is God's love that extends itself to sinners and to His hurting children. It is because of God's love that depraved, hard-hearted sinners can be changed into loving, considerate people of the faith.

2—God's Comfort is our

enabler....When you are suffering and you will if you live for God. You must understand that the more you suffer the more comfort God will give you. Paul said it this way; *"God who comforts us in all our afflictions."* He gives us His strength, encouragement, and hope to endure trials. How do you think you have made it so far without becoming a prescription drug addict? **It's God's comfort!** Paul also said; *"the God of all comfort."* This means that He is always ready, no matter how big of a problem that you face. Whatever your hardship is -big-or small He is ready.

Are you struggling with temptation? Do you need support with a mental pain? Whatever the pain remember that God is the all-powerful God of all comfort. He is willing to transcend all obstacles and reach down and heal the brokenhearted and bind up all wounds.

3—God uses comfort to teach...many people are not aware of the fact that God allows suffering to teach us at times. At times the more you suffer the more comfort God can give you. This in turn teaches you how to pass on the experience to someone else in the future that may cross your path that is going through the same thing you went through.

So what are we to do with the comfort that God gives us?

Enjoy it for sure! Then be faithful to pass it on to others that may be suffering at this current time. Remember his comfort isn't only to cheer us up but to cheer others up as well.

Now before we finish this lesson let's learn how to put God's comfort to work for you. First realize that at times God wants to use you as an instrument of comfort rather than to receive comfort yourself. Perhaps life brings a coworker across your path or maybe even your spouse is having a rough time, it's your responsibility to be their comfort. Whatever you do don't shy away from opportunities to comfort. But instead do these five things.

- Develop a heart of compassion. Jesus was our example to follow. He constantly demonstrated compassion as he walked out his 33 years.
- Look for opportunities to show compassion to others. This could be as simple as a pat on the back, a hug, or just by making yourself available for them to talk to.
- Don't lecture or sermonize people. Remember that they are in pain, distraught and often grieving. Now is not the best time to tell them what to do or how to act. But instead it is the time to listen.
- Don't accuse or criticize them. Now is not the time to tell someone what they should do or should have done. There will come a time when they will be receptive to your advice but not while they are going through the pain. Instead it's a time to just be there for them. And let them know that you feel their pain.
- Think back to a time when you were hurting and how you felt. Then empathize by remembering what God did to encourage you. Use your past experience to help others that may be suffering from the same thing that you have been through.

Matthew Henry the pastor of old said it best this way.

He said; *"we speak best of God and His goodness when we speak from our own experiences."*