

Lessons of Life

4-12-26

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (ESV)

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,

As believers we have the promise of God that HE will personally comfort us in our afflictions. We are not alone. We may feel alone, but God is presence every step of the way.

Hebrews 13:5–6 (ESV)

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear.”

This is a quote from the OT.

Psalms 118:7 (ESV)

The LORD is on my side as my helper.

When afflicted and brokenhearted, we cry out to God and HE comforts us. In our time of trouble, HE is our helper.

Psalms 34:17-19 (ESV) NO/OH

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

(v.19 – end of msg – rest in truth and persevere)

The God of the universe is concerned about us, and HE is standing with us. However, as comforting as this promise is, there is another reason that God comforts us. (Full promise)

2 Corinthians 1:4 (ESV)

God 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.

Notice the words ‘so that’. God comforts us in all our affliction, ‘so that’ we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction. God uses “affliction to train” believers to comfort others in affliction. This means that “our own” afflictions have a God given purpose. We can’t adequately comfort anyone unless we have experienced comfort during our own affliction. This means that God is actively and personally involved in our own “painful” afflictions.

Christ in HIS life experienced our pain. In a human sense, having felt our pain, and being comforted, HE is able to abundantly comfort us.

2 Corinthians 1:5 (ESV)

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Jesus identifies with us and comforts us, but also, HE wants us to be able to identify with others and comfort them. Therefore, we see our afflictions as divine training from God.

2 Corinthians 1:6 (ESV)

If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

Life's afflictions are used by God to equip us to be able to comfort others the same way God comforted us. The greater the intensity of our affliction, the greater comfort we receive, thus the greater capacity for us to comfort others. Notice the intensity of the affliction.

2 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV)

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.

Paul, the picture of virtue and maturity suffered affliction so intense that he wished he were dead. Why? This may be one of the greatest lessons of our life.

2 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV)

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.

We cry out, “Why?” God says, “To make you not rely on yourself but on God who raises the dead.” God will bring things into our life to train us and to prove that our faith is genuine as stated in 1Peter 1:7. Jesus made us righteous, but HE continues to teach us and comfort us in this life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.