

Lifted

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

- I. Source of Comfort v.3
 - a. God of all Comfort
 - i. Comfort - **lifting of another's spirits**
 - ii. God gives "who gives every possible encouragement". In accordance with his limitless compassion
 - iii. encouragement/exhortation,
 - iv. consolatory strengthening in the face of adversity that affords spiritual refreshment
 - v. God intends to intervene and deliver them out of their affliction.
 - vi. God's comfort strengthens weak knees and sustains sagging spirits so that one faces the troubles of life with unbending resolve and unending assurance
 - b. He is sympathetic and shows mercy when we are afflicted
 - i. Lazarus John 11:35
- II. Comfort Given in Suffering and Affliction v.4
 - a. Comfort in Affliction
 - i. Affliction- **trouble that inflicts distress, *oppression*Suffering- that which is suffered or endured, *suffering, misfortune***
 - 1. Paul uses the word "affliction" to refer both to external distress (4:8; Rom 8:35) and inner torment (7:5; Phil 1:17).
 - 2. **2 Corinthians 11:24-28**
 - ii. Comfort in Suffering
 - 1. **Suffering- that which is suffered or endured, *suffering, misfortune***
 - 2. These sufferings "in" and "for" Christ apparently included both physical afflictions and psychological or spiritual suffering. An obvious example of Paul's physical suffering would be his stoning at Lystra (Acts 14:19; cf. Gal. 6:17),
 - 3. Christians are baptized into Christ's death (Rom 6:3)
 - 4. "Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in *his sufferings* (Rom 8:17).
 - 5. "Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings"(Phil 3:10-11).
 - 6. He also tells the Galatians that he bears the marks of Jesus in his body (Gal 6:17).
 - b. God gives us grace when we are in a trial or afflicted 2 Cor 12:9
 - c. Comfort in Depression- 2 Corinthians 7:6
- III. You give Comfort in Affliction and Suffering . V.5-7

- a. Since we are comforted by God we should comfort others
 - i. Christians' experience of God's help, consolation, and encouragement in the midst of all life's afflictions constantly qualifies and empowers them to communicate the divine "comfort" to others who face troubles of any variety.
 1. Romans 12:15 Weep with those who weep
 2. "Sympathy is love perfected by experience"