

GOD OF ALL COMFORT

2 Corinthians 1

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Have you ever felt hesitant to talk to someone you knew was sad or hurting? Why?
- How many different life situations can you identify in which it would be appropriate to give or receive comfort?
- Think of a time when someone comforted you. What did they say or do that actually helped you feel comforted?

Where do you turn for comfort when you or someone you know experiences sadness, grief, uncertainty, or fear? We often hesitate to comfort someone because we don't know what to say. But we have a God that provides us true comfort. The Bible is rich with passages describing God's love and faithfulness, and we can share these with each other in times of need. Let's study one of those passages, 2 Corinthians 1, in which the Apostle Paul assures us that the source of our comfort is the God of all comfort himself.

Listen: [*God of All Comfort*](#)

Reflection

After listening:

- Read Psalm 91 and Isaiah 43:1-7. How do these Bible passages support Paul's claim in 2 Corinthians 1:3 that God is the "God of all comfort"?
- Consider the image of the tiered fountain that host Scott Hoezee uses in segment 2. The picture describes how God's comfort fills to overflowing so that we might comfort others in our lives with the comfort he provides. Who can *you* come alongside as God's representative to bring comfort? How might you comfort someone even when you're far apart?
- In segment 3, Scott Hoezee says, "When we come alongside someone in comfort, the reason we dare do that is not because we have such great words, but because we are all leaning on the same God, and that is our hope and comfort." Does that encourage you to be a comforter to others like Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 1:4? Why or why not?
- One way to offer God's comfort is to share God's words rather than our own. For example, one might find comfort by hearing their own name in the place of the "you" found in God's promises in Isaiah 43:1:

"But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created *[insert name]*,
he who formed *[insert name]*:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed *[insert name]*;

I have summoned *[insert name]* by name;
[insert name] is mine.

- How might you paraphrase Jesus' promise in Matthew 11:28-30 similarly to comfort someone who needs to hear his words?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 11:28-30**
- **Isaiah 53**
- **Hebrews 4:14-16**
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Conclusion

As you conclude your study, offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for being the “God of all comfort” and for the biblical promises to which we can cling when we need his peace. Consider closing your time of prayer with this prayer from Kari Kristina Reeves in *Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer*:

Lord, when I become disoriented by the clash between
circumstances and the reality of your word, sustain me.

Lord, when I become confused by the fulfillment of your
promise, renew me.

Lord, when I become impatient in my lack of understanding,
give me strength to endure.

Lord, when I become dismayed by the frustrations of this
world, give me perseverance.

Lord, when I become hardened to the leading of your Spirit,
soften me again.

Lord, when I become afraid, give me comfort.

Lord, when I become uncertain, give me surety.

Lord, when I become perplexed, give me peace.

Lord, be my all. Into your hands I commit my spirit again.

Amen (p. 75).

