

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Study Guide

God of All Comfort

Ed Lutz
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Major Points

- 1 We have a God of all comfort whose comfort is sufficient for every circumstance we face**
2 Corinthians 1:3
- 2 Our affliction and suffering can become a ministry to comfort others who face the same struggles**
2 Corinthians 1:4-6
- 3 We have unshakable hope because our God has conquered even death itself**
2 Corinthians 1:8-10
- 4 We must pray for one another as the means by which God sustains us through suffering**
2 Corinthians 1:11

Key Quotes

“God's comfort is good enough for whatever it is that we're in.”
at 10:04

“God doesn't waste our pain. We've said that before. God can use our pain for his glory.”
at 19:09

“God isn't going to necessarily stop the storms that come into our life, but he is our God. He is our refuge. He is our protection in the middle of those storms.”
at 27:29

“But I know one thing. My faith will not waver.”
at 23:59

Discussion Questions

- 1.** Pastor Lutz described comfort as more than just soothing — it includes walking alongside and strengthening. Can you think of a time when someone's presence during a hard season meant more than any words they could have said?
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- 2.** Paul said he 'despaired of life itself' and received a 'sentence of death.' How does knowing that even an apostle hit rock bottom change the way you think about your own struggles and doubts?
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3. Pastor Lutz shared the story of believers facing persecution overseas and legal advocates standing with them in the trenches. What does that kind of shared suffering look like in the context of our everyday church community?

4. The sermon highlighted how God doesn't waste our pain — that our suffering can become a ministry to others. Is there something painful you've walked through that God has since used to comfort someone else? What made you ready to share it?

5. Pastor Lutz admitted that his own family sometimes chose not to share their struggles, and later wished they had invited others to pray. What holds us back from being vulnerable with our church family, and how can we create a culture where people feel safe to ask for prayer?

Word Studies

παράκλησις

paraklēsis

Greek

An earnest calling alongside for the purpose of encouragement, consolation, and strengthening — encompassing not merely emotional soothing but active sustaining presence.

θλίψις

thlipsis

Greek

Pressing pressure or crushing weight, denoting both external oppressive circumstances and the internal anguish they produce.

ἐξαπορέω

exaporeō

Greek

To be utterly at a loss with no way out, a total exhaustion of every resource and avenue of escape beyond ordinary despair.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:1-2

God's command to 'comfort, comfort my people' establishes the Old Testament foundation for the Father as the initiator of comfort — the same divine character Paul celebrates in 2 Corinthians 1:3.

Romans 8:17-18

Paul teaches that believers are co-heirs with Christ who share in His sufferings so they may share in His glory — directly paralleling the abundance of both suffering and comfort described in 2 Corinthians 1:5.

Psalms 34:17-18

The psalmist affirms that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit, providing an Old Testament witness to God's comfort for those who, like Paul, despair of life itself.

Galatians 6:2

Paul's instruction to 'bear one another's burdens' gives the practical outworking of the mutual comfort and shared suffering that the Corinthian church experienced with Paul.

1 Peter 5:10

Peter promises that after suffering for a little while, the God of all grace will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish believers — echoing the pattern of affliction followed by divine deliverance and hope in 2 Corinthians 1:8-10.

Further Reading

- **Suffering and the Sovereignty of God**
by John Piper and Justin Taylor
- **A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss**
by Jerry Sittser
- **The Message of 2 Corinthians (The Bible Speaks Today)**
by Paul Barnett

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
2 Corinthians 1:3-11	Referenced	2 : 54	<i>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Ch...</i>
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17	Referenced	10 : 01	<i>Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Fat...</i>
John 14:16	Referenced	11 : 36	<i>I will pray to the Father, and he will give you an...</i>
Psalms 103:8	Referenced	11 : 36	<i>Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, an...</i>
Ephesians 2:4	Referenced	12 : 24	<i>But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love w...</i>

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Lamentations 3:22-23	Referenced	12:37	<i>It is because of Yahweh's loving kindnesses that w...</i>
James 5:11	Read Aloud	17:51	<i>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained ste...</i>
Acts 12:1-11	Referenced	29:55	<i>Now about that time, King Herod stretched out his ...</i>
Acts 18:1	Referenced	0:32	<i>After these things Paul departed from Athens, and ...</i>
2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Referenced	2:06	<i>It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. Fo...</i>
2 Corinthians 1:4	Read Aloud	9:40	<i>who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we ...</i>
Psalms 103:8	Referenced	12:16	<i>Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger. an...</i>
2 Corinthians 1:5	Read Aloud	15:28	<i>For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings,...</i>
2 Corinthians 1:6	Read Aloud	16:16	<i>If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and sa...</i>
Acts 9:15-16	Referenced	16:46	<i>But the Lord said to him, "Go your way, for he is ...</i>
2 Corinthians 1:7	Read Aloud	25:01	<i>Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as ...</i>
Acts 19:1	Referenced	25:24	<i>While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed ...</i>
2 Corinthians 1:8-10	Read Aloud	25:40	<i>For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of...</i>
2 Corinthians 1:11	Read Aloud	29:11	<i>You also must help us by prayer, so that many will...</i>
James 5:16	Referenced	30:31	<i>Confess your offenses to one another, and pray for...</i>