

Learning to Comfort

7-6-14 AM

In II Corinthians 1:3-7 Paul speaks about the God of all comfort comforting us. He says that God comforts us through each other, and that He does so with the purpose that we should then comfort each other. It is fundamental to being a Christian that we are able to comfort each other; " Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2)

Being a good comforter is something we all desire. Sometimes we do not feel up to the task; we think that we do not know how to comfort, and are fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. The Bible has an excellent lesson for us in how to comfort in the book of Job.

In Job 1-2 we learn about Job, and how God permitted him to be tested to the extreme. At the end of chapter 2, we are told that his friends arrive to offer sympathy and comfort to him. They came to their friend; they sat with their friend; they mourned with their friend; they said nothing. They were excellent comforters in that moment. We need to learn from their example in those few verses that being a good comforter is quite simple

In Job 16:1-8 we learn another lesson about comforting. In these verses we find out that Job's friends have gone from being great comforters to terrible comforters. When Job started talking, rather than allowing him to speak, they replied to him. They offered criticism and tried to fix what could not be fixed. Being a terrible comforter is easy; just start talking!

Comforting Others Can Be Easy. Don't worry about the right words; words are seldom what is needed. Presence and patience are needed more so. We need to learn to listen without replying