

Paul Anguish Reveals a God of All Comfort

3-15-15 AM

In II Corinthians 1:3-7 Paul described God's ability to comfort. He reveals throughout the entire letter (but in particular in II Corinthians 6:1-13) that he himself suffered and sorrowed much, and that He was prepared to open himself to their view. Paul's struggles he lists in this letter use words like "depressed", "anguish", "despair", "grief", "affliction", etc. All words we use today to describe struggles in our lives.

Paul's Struggles

1. II Corinthians 1:8-18 - The peril of death & the ruination of the best laid plans
2. II Corinthians 2:1-5 - The conduct of the Corinthians & Paul's rebuke
3. II Corinthians 2:12-13 - Titus (Paul's "son", Titus 1:4) had disappeared
4. II Corinthians 11:3-6 - Paul feared that they were falling away
5. II Corinthians 12:5-8 - An unnamed burden simply to humble him

Yet Paul sad that God had comforted him in these situations so that he could comfort the Corinthians. How had he done this?

1. II Corinthians 1:8-18 - The peril of death & the ruination of the best laid plans

God's Comfort: II Corinthians 4:16-18 - God works in ways we cannot appreciate; therefore, we must commit ourselves to trusting Him

2. II Corinthians 2:1-5 - The conduct of the Corinthians & Paul's rebuke

God's Comfort: 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 - the Way of God is triumphant over all things

3. II Corinthians 2:12-13 - Titus (Paul's "son", Titus 1:4) had disappeared

God's Comfort: II Corinthians 7:6-7 - God restored Titus, but even more He did so with additional good news/ We learn that God answer prayers, but sometimes things need to be hard for the better.

4. II Corinthians 11:3-6 - Paul feared that they were falling away

God's Comfort: II Corinthians 12:19-20 - His joy is in Christ, not in men, and his confidence is in the work of Christ in men.

5. II Corinthians 12:5-8 - An unnamed burden simply to humble him

God's Comfort: II Corinthians 12:9-10 - Paul's weaknesses were Christ's strengths

All of this reminds us of what Paul means when he called our Father the God of all Comfort. God DOES comfort His people, and He DOES answer prayers. We see it in Paul, and if we look, we will see it in our own lives.