

The Comforter

Everyone needs comfort and support just to get them through the day. And Jesus knew that and that is why we have the greatest Comforter of all, the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 66:13 says, “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.” God says I will comfort you like a mother comforts her child. This verse is portraying God more tenderly than you could imagine. When you are in the darkest place and in the deepest valley, and when things are genuinely difficult, God says, I will comfort you. Take your burdens to Jesus today, and He will comfort you and He will get you through.

The harsh reality is sometimes life can be brutal. Death and job losses and bad news and health challenges. And there is not a person alive who is built to take all of that in their life. So where do you turn when things get really tough? The Holy Spirit will comfort you when you can't find encouragement.

If no one ever told you, today you can believe that you have greatness in you today. Greatness always needs a friend. Greatness needs someone who will not judge you or criticize you. Because sometimes being great won't always be or feel so great. Sometimes great means being crushed and not allowed to complain about it. Greatness may be in a season where you help others, but you go home empty yourself. Your storm may be where you give all you can to encourage others, and you go home discouraged. But today you don't have to feel that way. God is there and He will always be there if you let Him. Find solace in Him and you will find that you are really never alone. Let Him comfort you and you will see that you can go on and comfort someone else.

Jesus Calms the Storm

I want to share with you that Jesus can calm any storm that may be in your life. In Mark chapter 4, Jesus calms a storm when he speaks to howling winds and roaring waves. **Mark 4:36-39 - Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.**

This story is not just in the bible to demonstrate that Jesus had power over the weather. In the next chapter in Mark chapter 5, Jesus stills the tempest raging in a man's heart when he cast out the demons that were possessing him. Jesus calmed the storm on the sea and then He calmed the spiritual, emotional storm in a man's heart. This is what He does.

Today, do you have storms in your life and trouble in your heart? Jesus is the one that you can turn to, to calm them all down. He who calms the weather has power over spiritual darkness. And He can bring that same peace into your experience today. Include Him into your storm, right now.

Making a Difference

Of all the women on Earth, Mary was chosen to bear and raise the Savior of the world. Although she was not wealthy, well-educated, or privileged in any earthly way, she was spiritually just who God needed to help guide Jesus into His years of public ministry. She said in **Luke 1:49-53 - For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.**

Some of the best advice Mary ever gave was to a group of servants at a wedding feast in Cana. In a time of crisis, she pointed them to Jesus and said, **“Whatever He says to you, do it.”** That’s some of the best counsel that has ever been given. Caring, humble, dedicated, and supportive, Mary was handpicked by God. Do you want to make a life-changing impact in someone’s life today? How about your children? Are they impacted by how you live or are you showing them a different story? You can be all God called you to be right where you are and if God is speaking to you right now, then, whatever He says to you, do it.

Ruth

“There was a famine in the land.” This begins with a story of one of the most inspiring women in the Bible. Ruth, a Moabite widow, experienced tremendous tragedy and loss. But despite the challenges she faced, she knew she had found the God of heaven and refused to let Him go.

But Ruth said this in **Ruth 1:16: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. “For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God,” she told Naomi.**

Ruth was faithful, determined, caring, tenacious and part of the lineage of Jesus. She knew she had found treasure, and she knew that she did not want to ever let it go. Hold on to Jesus today. You are a child of the King, destination, heaven to spend all of eternity with Him.

Are you facing challenges in your life right now? Are you wondering how all of this can be part of God’s plan? Be inspired by Ruth, a woman of faith. And what He did for her He will do it for you. Trust Him today.

Endure

As Christians we tend to look for the easy way of doing things. And in this day and age we have that luxury where life over the years has made everything easy for us. It is not surprising that there is no

open fire for you to cook dinner on, but a stove and microwave to make things a lot easier for you. In the same way we don't want our Christianity to be any harder than it needs to be.

The truth is sometimes Christianity is tough. Look at what Paul wrote in **2 Timothy 2:3 – You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

In other words, suffer hardship or share in Christ's suffering. It can be difficult, there can and will be trials. There are people who are dying for their faith. God told Timothy to endure and to hang in there. There are some who want something for nothing. If you have this mentality about Christ and heaven you may find yourself outside the gates instead of on the inside with God's people. You must suffer and even though some say that they do, their countenance shows they are not happy about it. You can't work for your salvation by doing good deeds for Christ to exchange it for suffering for Christ. But heaven has a cost. And God ask that we count up the cost before we commit to following Him. Have you counted the cost? It's not easy. And God didn't tell us that it would be. But He expects us to lean on Him when times get tough. If you don't you will become bitter, angry, tired and will later give up. That is not what the Christian walk is all about. It is about asking God for strength during the tough times.

If you have chosen Christ today, don't let Him go. And if you are going through a trial, please don't let Him go. Let Him guide you and keep you in all your ways. So today, whatever you are facing, just hang in there. When you lean on Jesus, through the hard times, you are truly walking in the will of God and your countenance will show it.

God is Near

One of the challenges that life brings is dealing with the emotions that we were never created to experience. Adam and Eve were made to experience joy and to be happy and content. But sin brought into the world emotions and fear that were foreign to them. Which is why sadness and guilt are such troubling things. They are intruders and for example when we grieve it is really hard.

Psalms 34:18 – The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart and saves such as have a contrite [crushed] heart.

The emotion of grief says you can't go on. The emotion of guilt after you have failed suggest that God can't love you. The emotion of fear says anything that can happen will happen and immobilizes you. These can be emotions you find after a spouse has been unfaithful or someone who has said something terrible about you. Your emotions may go crazy and that is difficult. But the reality is the Lord is near. And it is a time in your life when you must accept and believe that this is true of God. You can ask for His power and strength through times as these. Today, if you have never experienced real love in your life, you can right now. Now, that is real faith, when you can say and know that God loves you and He is near you always. And that nothing will harm you when you stay with Jesus. No matter what you have done or what you may be going through. Choose to believe this right now and He will not disappoint you.

The Way to Victory

We are in a war. And the ones who make it successfully through that war are the ones who surrender. Satan is against God which makes Him against His children. And if you are a child of God, you are the ones that He longs to defeat every day. When we realize that God wants to help us win our battles, we are to give up all rights to Him. You are not to fight to the death or until you give up hope. That is not God's intent for your life.

Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Far too many people who call themselves Christians never truly surrender their lives to God. They never deny themselves or give up their rights to God. When you surrender, you are saying you will no longer fight God, and you want Him to take over. Let God take over your life today. There will be more peace and less stress in your life when you do. Surrender is the way to Victory.

Where Do You Turn?

Every now and then life throws up a really big challenge. For most of us in the developed world, life is a calm sort of thing, until it isn't. Until there is a crisis. Until there is a death or a calamity. Until there is a disability. Or until our peace with God is threatened. Where do you turn at times like that?

Daniel was a young man taken from Jerusalem into slavery in Babylon, when the king announced that he was going to execute his entire group of counselors. Which included Daniel and his friends.

Daniel 2:17-18 - Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

And God answered their prayer. Daniel gave us a great example of where to turn when trouble comes. It is an example that gave them peace and comfort at a time that could have been nothing but total fear. When trouble strikes you and it will, where do you turn? I pray today that you turn to Jesus.

Pride

There are some sins that you don't hear much about. Adultery, that's a bad one and you hear about that. Murder, theft, drunkenness, illegal drug use, we hear about all of those. Yes, we can all agree that those are bad. But you know the bible speaks about pride and hardly anyone ever talks about it or teach about it. Even though the bible calls pride an abomination, which places it as a sin among the rest.

Proverbs 29:23 says, A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Humility is something to be desired. And you can believe, it's not something that everyone has. Which someone said, "**Humility isn't thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.**" Pride is disastrous and self-exhortation led to the downfall of Lucifer and brought sin into the world. Pride often causes people to make poor decisions that affect themselves, families, and their whole

life. What can you do if this is you? You can turn to Christ and take a good look at yourself as you take away the thought that you have accomplished anything on your own. It is an eye-opener that we all can learn from. There is nothing that we have done or accomplished within ourselves that we can boast about. It takes humility, but when you look at the fact that you cannot do or achieve anything without God, it helps us realize that we have nothing to boast about at all. Pride takes on many forms and it is a good idea today, to check and make sure that not one of those forms has overtaken you.