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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, March 20, 2019 - The God Who Comforts

MARCH 20TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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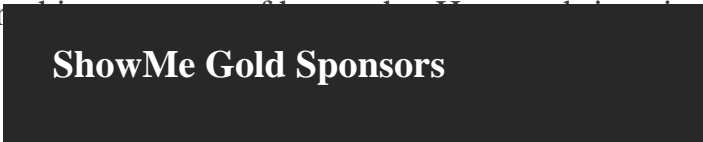
2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Look up comfort in a dictionary and you'll find a definition like "something that promotes a state of ease or provides freedom from pain and anxiety." But according to God's Word, when consolation is needed, the only true solution is the indwelling Holy Spirit. In Greek, He is called *paraklētos*, which means "he who stands at one's side; he who comes to one's aid." Believers don't have to rely on outward remedies or distractions to ease their mind, because help is available from the ultimate Comforter.

Even before the Holy Spirit was sent to indwell believers (John 14:26; Eph. 3:16), Scripture identified God as the one who comforts His people (Isa. 40:1; Isa. 49:13). The Lord personally provides consolation and reassurance because no one knows our hurts the way He does.

I like this anonymous quotation: "When we have gone into the furnace of affliction, His hand is on the thermostat and His eye is on the clock." God allows hardship, and as a result, we become stronger believers, wiser servants, and more humble people. But He stays by our side through the entire experience, sustaining us and limiting the intensity and duration of our distress. The Spirit's reassuring whisper to our heart gives more comfort than the solace of family or the encouragement of friends.

People who fail to understand the true source of comfort try to escape their pain. They seek out pleasures, material wealth, or drugs and alcohol to soothe them. Only God can offer lasting relief from the crushing grief that comes from losing a loved one. They fall into periods of mourning.



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