


CONVEYING *the* **LIGHT**
CLAIM IT. FOCUS IT. SPREAD IT. BE IT.

Unbroken Series: Week Two

“Comforted”
2 Corinthians 1:1-5

Presented by Rev. Dr. Andre J. Lewis, Senior Pastor

- I. God provides enough to get us through.
 - A. What exactly is "comfort?"
 1. The word appears nine times in 1:1-11, and twenty-nine times in this letter.
 2. Obviously it's an important concept.
 3. The word "comfort" in the Bible has more to do with strengthening than soothing.
 - B. The Greek word for comfort means "*to help by giving courage.*"
 1. The English word points us in that direction, too.
 2. "*Comfort*" comes from the Latin root fortis, which means "strength."
 3. It shows up in words like forte, fortress, and fortitude.
 4. Comfort, according to the Bible, isn't about feeling better; it's about feeling stronger....
 5. If you've just lost someone you love or been disappointed in a major way, you're supposed to feel bad, sad, or mad. What you need is the strength to get through it.
 - C. The second thing you need to know is that comfort isn't something you find; it has to find you.
 1. Someone has to bring it to you. The Greek word for comfort literally means "*to come alongside*" someone.
 2. In the Old Testament, this type of word is often used to describe God's showing up in a time of distress to rescue his people or to relieve their suffering.
 3. In the New Testament the word is associated with the Holy Spirit (the Comforter), whom God sends to encourage and empower his people.
 4. It's wonderful to have friends when life hurts, but there's only so much a human comforter can do;
 5. That's why Paul says in verse three, "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort....*"
- II. God is the Father of compassion.**
 - A. I find it interesting that Paul twice identifies the Heavenly Comforter as "*Father.*"
 1. We never really outgrow the need for a parent to come alongside us when we're hurting.

- Mom's Band-Aids always made us feel better. Grand Pa could fix anything.

2. Paul reminds us that God is a heavenly parent—the Father of compassion.

B. Still, Paul tells us that God is "*the Father of compassion.*"

1. Not the Father of Justice or the Father of Righteousness.
2. He certainly is just and righteous. But when we're hurting, we can count on him to be compassionate.

III. God gives us enough to give away.

A. Paul realizes that the hardship he has endured and the strength he has received enable him to strengthen others in their time of distress.

1. In fact, one of the primary ways God delivers comfort is through people who come alongside us.
2. In other words, when God gives you comfort, he doesn't just give enough to get you through.

B. Verse 4 tells us that we, the jars of clay can never be so broken that there's nothing left inside us.

1. The more freely Christ flows out of our lives, the more freely he flows into our lives.
2. No matter how many times we get banged around or knocked over, the life and strength continue to flow.
3. In fact, the more we get knocked around, the more people are blessed by what flows out of us.

C. v. 5 Paul gives the reason why the argument of v. 4 is true.

1. It is true because just as the sufferings of Christ overflow toward us, so also our comfort through Christ overflows.
2. The sufferings of Christ do not refer to any suffering Messiah endured on the cross en route to securing our redemption.
3. There is an eschatological element in the sufferings as they are destined by God in order to fill up the full measure of Messiah's suffering (Col 1:24).
4. But, Paul says, the more I suffer the more I experience comfort through Christ.
5. Though God did save Paul from such a deadly peril (1:8-11), he was nonetheless comforted in the midst of the trial.