



## Sunday Sermon Summary

Pastor Philip Thomas, March 12, 2023

### 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 – Comfort

## 1. Summary of the Sermon

This sermon focuses on the theme of God's comfort, as described in **2 Corinthians 1:1-11**. The speaker emphasizes that God's comfort is not the removal of pain or suffering but His presence and encouragement during difficult times. The message draws from Paul's teachings, particularly his personal experiences of suffering and reliance on God. Through various examples from Scripture, the speaker illustrates how God's comfort empowers believers to persevere, remain faithful, and extend that comfort to others.

The speaker explains that comfort in the biblical sense means encouragement to continue in God's calling. God's comfort comes through His Spirit -- and through others who have experienced His comfort. The sermon also discusses suffering, noting that while some suffering results from personal sin or disobedience, suffering for Christ is purposeful and often leads to greater reliance on God.

Using examples like Paul, Moses, and Simeon, the speaker highlights that God's promise, is His presence -- not a life free from hardship. The sermon concludes with a call to trust God's ability to redeem even the most dire situations; and to pray for and support others in their struggles.

---

## 2. List of Scripture References

Here are the scripture references mentioned in the sermon:

1. **2 Corinthians 1:1-11** - NIV - Primary source of sermon
2. **Acts 9** (Paul's conversion)
3. **Luke 2:25-32** (Simeon and the consolation of Israel)
4. **Luke 2:29-32** (Simeon's response)
5. **Genesis 22** (Abraham and Isaac, referenced indirectly)

---

## 3. Detailed List of Each Important Point

### Introduction

- **Main Theme:** God's comfort as described in **2 Corinthians 1:1-11**.
- The speaker begins by explaining the context of Paul's letters to the Corinthians, emphasizing their preservation for the church's instruction.

### Understanding God's Comfort

- **Biblical Comfort Defined as:** Encouragement to persevere in God's calling, rather than the removal of suffering.
- **God's Character:** God is the "Father of compassion" and the "God of all comfort."

- **Purpose of Comfort:** God comforts us, and we can share our testimony and comfort others.

### **Paul's Experiences of Suffering and Comfort**

- Paul suffered greatly, but through these experiences, he received God's comfort and was able to encourage others.
- **Paul's Apostleship:** Highlighted as God's chosen instrument, appointed to proclaim His name and endure suffering.

### **Simeon's Example in Luke 2**

- **Waiting for Consolation:** Simeon waited faithfully for the "consolation of Israel."
- Simeon's comfort came from seeing the fulfillment of God's promise, not a change in external circumstances.

### **God's Presence is Our Comfort**

- **Moses:** When Moses doubted, God promised His presence: "I will be with you."
- **Abraham:** When asked to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham trusted in God's power to raise the dead.

### **Suffering in Christ's suffering**

- **Types of Suffering:** The distinction between suffering due to sin, and suffering for Christ.
- **Suffering for Christ:** Leads to deeper reliance on God, and greater faith.
- **God's Deliverance:** Even in seemingly final situations, God's power to raise the dead brings hope.

### **Encouragement to Pray and Support Others**

- **Call to Action:** Believers are encouraged to join in prayer and to comfort others as they have been comforted by God -- and to pray for them to know the Presence of the Lord, His comfort, and His peace.
- **Collective Prayer:** The importance of praying together as a church, to seek God's movement and work.

### **Personal Testimony**

- The speaker shares how he took comfort from knowing that "**the God of all comfort, comforts us**" as revealed in **2 Corinthians 1** -- emphasizing the reality of God's comfort in grief.
- And a story of reconciliation and transformation is shared, where another person found hope through the testimony he shared of his father.

### **Conclusion**

- **God's Promise:** is His presence and His ability to bring redemption even in dire situations.
- **Prayer:** A closing prayer acknowledges God as the "God of all comfort" and asks for His continued Presence, encouragement, and guidance.