

WORDS *of*
WISDOM
from Scripture

—◆—
VOLUME I

*A 21-Day Discovery
of God's Wisdom in God's Words*

NATHAN BREINICH

ONE

CONSOLATION, n.

Comfort; alleviation of misery, or distress of mind, refreshment of mind or spirits.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3–7, the Holy Spirit presents consolation by using it synonymously with comfort, points us to God as the source of all comfort, and sets the word in contrast to suffering and tribulation:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is

stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

God is the God of *all* comfort. The *all* here speaks to both kind and measure. He can alleviate all kinds of hurt, pain, and suffering, whether from losing a job, the betrayal of a friend or spouse, or an unexpected cancer diagnosis. And He doesn't just provide *some* comfort or a *little* comfort but pours out *all* comfort. His ability to comfort you in your particular trouble is limitless. How can that be? Is there a conduit through which this comfort flows? Yes! Our *consolation aboundeth by Christ*—the living Word. Think of the calming words Jesus spoke to hurting, fretting people while He was on earth:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
—John 14:1-4

Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.
—John 8:11

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
—John 8:31-32

...thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace...
—Mark 5:34

What is the duration of the consolation Christ gives? Will it only last until tomorrow or next week? Can it ever be depleted? Absolutely not.

*Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us **everlasting consolation** and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*

—2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

Simply put, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has given us an everlasting consolation—you cannot live long enough for it to run out! You cannot have a trial deep enough that the well of His grace won't fill your heart. He is abundantly able to comfort and establish you in the work He has called you to do. What a Saviour!

God also describes the power of His consolation:

*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a **strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus...*

—Hebrews 6:17-20

Here the Scripture tells us that our consolation is strong because it is based on the nature and character of a holy, immutable (unchanging) God. Did you know Scripture tells us certain things God cannot do? God cannot lie, and He cannot change.

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; —Titus 1:2

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. —Malachi 3:6

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. —Hebrews 13:8

Hebrews 6 shows us that Jesus has entered within the veil as our forerunner. Hebrews 9:12 further teaches that He entered in once by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption for us. We have redemption and forgiveness, all by the grace of God. What hope, what comfort, what consolation in our trouble!

Then, when we look to Psalm 119:49–52, we find God’s comfort also abounds to us in His written Word:

Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law. I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

The Psalmist testifies that the word of God was his comfort in his affliction. Before he looked to anyone else, he looked to God and found comfort in His judgments of old. I wonder which parts of Scripture he read to find comfort. Was he encouraged to read that God powerfully created the universe in six literal days, and that the same God could strengthen him? Did he recall Moses telling the children of Israel, who were sure to be killed by Pharaoh’s

pursuing army, “*Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day*” (Exodus 14:13)? I’m not sure, but something in the word of God quickened him, refreshed him, and empowered him to take another step in his journey.

What troubles you today? What tribulation do you face? Your problem is never outside the scope of God’s ability to bring comfort and wisdom to your situation!

This passage also says He comforts us *in all our tribulation*. God doesn’t *remove* us from experiencing trouble. The Bible is replete with real people who faced suffering, persecution, heartache, and death. Think of Moses’ mother, who launched her infant son out into a river to avoid Pharaoh’s murderous decree, not knowing what would become of him. Think of Esther, who faced Haman’s wicked scheme to exterminate her people, the Jews. Think of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah as they faced death in a fiery furnace for not bowing to an image made by man. No, there’s no avoiding trouble and heartache in this life, but God is completely capable of comforting us in all our trouble.

And, God doesn’t just console us so we don’t hurt anymore. He does so “*that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble.*” My trouble, my hurt, and my pain are not merely about me; they are about God receiving glory as He brings me through the trial so others can see how great, true, and faithful He is. It’s so I can comfort others, not with my own wisdom and experience, but with the words wherewith I was comforted of God. That’s His promise!

Write the definition of Consolation.

What similar word does God use to define Consolation?

What does consolation reveal about God's character or nature?

Write a verse from this lesson you want to memorize this week.
