

GOD'S COMFORT

"THE FOUNDATION FOR GOD'S COMFORT" starts in Matthew 24 and begins to read about the time Jesus was with His disciples and warned them about the things to come into the world.

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And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt 24: 4-14).

Brethren our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ uses the gospel as we just read in the Book of Matthew to outline and picture the end time events that are to come to pass soon throughout the entirety of this planet. Jesus establishes this prophecy because He understood, and He knew the plan God our Father has for us for the salvation of mankind. Christ understood, preached, and informed throughout the Holy Scriptures of the end time events that will happen because we, as God's children and called out Christians, must understand what will happen in the end time for all of mankind. Also, it is important to understand these verses that we just read, are timely for today!

Now, asking a question regarding these verses that we just read in Matthew 24: 4-14: **"Why did Jesus the Christ preach throughout the Gospel these words that speak of end time events?** We know that Jesus Christ was speaking about things that would not yet even happen for thousands of years. God knows that mankind would live generations upon generations without these events happening or beginning to happen because only God knows when these events will happen in the future. However, we see in these verses we just read in Matthew 24, that God intended for Jesus the Christ to give a prophecy regarding these events because God knew that there would be a set apart people, His Spiritual Israel, that would understand these events as they happen in the respective time line it would occur. We notice and see just a few of the events happening around the world today that are mentioned by Jesus Christ. Here are a few examples:

Major earthquakes happening around the world at the same time, and there are major earthquakes happening right now around all parts of the planet.

Rumors of war between the United States and Iran, and increased tensions between these two countries that almost led to a major conflict in the Middle East. Israel constantly facing rocket and mortar attacks from Iran proxies, and other terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Al-Qaeda.

Current health outbreaks and crisis happening around different countries around the world, numbering 19 pandemics spanned across all the continents. There's even a mysterious disease in China that claimed victims life just over this past few months according to the World Health Organization, as well as travel alerts being issued for 4 countries that are coming in and out of China.

Christians are constantly living persecution in predominantly Muslim nations, such as the case in Africa, and the Middle East where Christian churches are vandalized, burnt, looted, and Bibles burned.

The Pope preaching more and more about uniting all religions into a single religious system acceptable of all faiths and lifestyles, and how inclusive a new system of globalization should be.

Christians in the United States and Puerto Rico are mocked for having a set of beliefs, and an increased growth in atheism and satanic cults as substitution for the belief in God.

Finally, the current wildfires consuming almost the entire continent of Australia, and hundreds of thousands of animals dead, and thousands of citizens displaced from their homes being completely destroyed.

The basis for understanding what is going on in today's world should be a warning to what is to come. The Word of God clearly outlines the events that are to come upon us, but we cannot sit idly by, and not pay attention to what is happening around us. The purpose of the words spoken by Christ for us is to understand that these events are to come for a reason, but not without a solution in mind. We must take heed to God's Word and His Instruction Booklet, the Bible that we have on our book shelves today and hold on to the Scriptures because we need to be aware of everything that is going on. Furthermore, the events that are currently taking place are not because Jesus Christ wanted to instill fear into the heart of man, but because Jesus, the Christ knew that God already has a solution for all that is to come to pass.

The most important element that we will discuss, is actually the title for this article: "God's Comfort." We will see that throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testament, prophecy is always aligned with a solution that is not an actual physical solution to the problem that is to come, but a spiritual solution that as God called out Christians, we need to embrace each and every day. God made us in His image, and it is important to exemplify the qualities of Christians

because even during these difficult times, God is our Comforter. Let's look at the definition of the word comforter first. According to Webster's Dictionary, the word comforter has 4 different meanings:

- 1. Strengthening aid.**
- 2. A feeling of relief or encouragement**
- 3. A satisfying or enjoyable experience**
- 4. One that gives or brings comfort**

Also, there are three versions of this word in the Strong's Concordance. The first one is Strong's Concordance # 5165 from the Hebrew word **nechamah** which means "*comfort*". The second is Strong's Concordance # 5150 from the Hebrew word **nichum** meaning "*comfort or compassion*". The third is Strong's Concordance # 3874 from the Greek word **paraklesis** meaning "*a calling to one's aid, encouragement, comfort*". All these definitions provide a basic understanding of the word, and as we go along with the article. We will look at examples and how God wants us to prepare spiritually in order for these things to happen.

Now, prophecy isn't just the only thing we need to be aware of. There are times in our lives where we are tested with life altering events that change who we are as a person. The problem could lie within a disease or condition that is diagnosed, and we are completely in shock over that new information that comes available and is known to us. Some of us lose loved ones in the process of our life, and the situation presents itself in the most unexpected of times, and often without any preparation at all. In other instances, it could be our own jobs, where we know that as God's called out Christians that keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days, can be presented in some days with comments, jokes, and even people mocking our faith, even if they say it as a casual joke or in good faith according to them, as I'm sure you have gone through this process as well.

The afflictions we face in our daily life are necessary to plant a seed, mature, and watch our spiritual growth flourish during the most difficult times of our life. God is a Perfect and a Righteous God, and He does not let anything happen to us in our lives just out of pure coincidence, it is done with a purpose. Our spiritual side is in constant battle with our emotions, with our physical side, and we need to understand that God does not allow something to happen without having the need to do it in the first place. Our hearts and minds need to be on knowing that God will always prove to be on our side, no matter the circumstances, no matter the situation, no matter the problem, no matter the suffering that we are enduring, God will always be there.

Now, I know our human nature is evident when it comes to showing our emotions, and that is fine because we are physically in this world, and we sometimes let our emotions let out or get the best of us, but know this, we are not alone because God is our Comforter.

With all of that being established, let's look at what the Bible says in terms of the different instances in which God's comfort is evident in our lives. Now, we will be looking at quite a few scriptures for this article, but I think it is appropriate to do, given the circumstances we as God's called out people face each day, and how this will aid us in understanding God's comfort in order for us to understand God's comfort. Notice with me the Book of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1 and look at several verses regarding Paul and his letter to the Corinthians relating the message of how the power of God can help and aid us in understanding the importance of God's comfort: ***"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:18-21).*** And now dropping down to verses 26-30 of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1 (a very familiar set of verses for everyone that we all know by heart: ***"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:26-30).***

Brethren, in order for us to understand God's comfort, we must begin by acknowledging that our own calling from the world into the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ is at the heart and center of what God wants us as Christians to do. Our very calling defines who we are, it clearly demonstrates the purpose God instilled in each and every one of us. We have to, as Paul did, take heed into what God's Word puts in our hearts, our minds, and into practice every single day. God will comfort us, no matter the circumstances, no matter what we are going through, no matter what the trial, tribulation, or problem we are facing could do to us.

We must know and take into consideration that God's calling is a big part of God's comfort because of the predominance of having the wisdom of God's Word in our everyday life. Paul begins by demonstrating this concept in the details of how we are redeemed by Christ's sacrifice, and how little the worldly concepts matter to God, because God did not want to give comfort into the things that are of this world. He wanted to let us know that His comfort through our pains are manifested through the expressions and actions taken by us as Christians, and how these actions are defined through the point of view that God wants to put in our hearts that not many of the people are called by great possessions or stature in life. Instead, God relied on the simple things of this world to make sure we have His comfort and peace always.

Continue in the Book of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2 and we'll look at a few verses there: ***"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:***

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: But none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them not us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." (1 Cor. 2:2-11).

That's quite a lot of information and meat in those verses. The important parts of the verses outline a critical component to understanding God's comfort in our lives. In verses 3-4 there are several examples that Paul establishes to the Corinthian Church that are of actual relevance for us today in our own society. For example, in verse 3, Paul states: ***"And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling"***.

Questions, Are these not qualities that our own human nature take over inside of us during certain situations in our own lives? Do we not see each other in fear sometimes during certain circumstances in life? Do we not find ourselves weak due to a persistent problem that occurs in us daily? Are we not fearful for what the future might hold due to uncertainties presented in each and every one of our lives? There's absolutely no doubt in ones mind we have all experienced these feelings. However, just like the Scripture says in verse 5: ***"That our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God"***. This verse is key to understanding an element of God's comfort because we should not be worried, preoccupied, or concerned with how man will see the outcomes of our lives. But rather, God's faith should always first be exercised because of the mitigating circumstances that happen to us daily.

The things of this world will in no way, shape or form, give us peace and comfort for the world problems we face in the first place. God's wisdom, God's power, and God's peace through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit that lives and resides within us are the only elements that can truly give us peace. Nothing that man does can come in the way of what God wants for our lives, and that includes His comfort and peace during the direst of situations and circumstances.

Reading now the Old Testament to see a few examples of Scripture that will help us understand more about God's Comfort in our lives. Beginning in the Book of Job: ***"To set up in high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety" (Job 5:11)***. Now we've all read the story of Job, a man after God's heart, and who had lost literally everything in his life. He lost his family, his wife, his children, his flock, his home, and all of his riches and possessions. Yet, even through all of the trials and tribulations, Job understood that God cared for those who are mournful. Let's go now to the Book of Psalms: ***"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say, on the Lord" (Psalms 27:13-14)***.

Now reading of David, another man after God's own heart, gives us a truly remarkable set of scriptures to meditate on. These verses demonstrate the mercy and peace God gives us through the outpouring of God's comfort in our lives due to the courage we must demonstrate. And, an important quality is set before us during this time, and that is that we must wait. A quality that not many of us like to practice, especially when it comes to times of pain, anger, and mourning. However, the quality is important enough for David to mention it not once, but twice! We must as he says in verse 14: **"Wait on the Lord"**. Remember, God's time is not our own time, and His response and comfort will be there, we just have to **wait** on Him. Looking now in the book of Isaiah: 41:10 **"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."** These are truly incredible words given directly to the prophet Isaiah by our Lord God, letting us know that an important thing for us to do is to not fear any situation that comes our way. We cannot be discouraged, no matter the circumstances surrounding our life. God is in control of every single aspect, every single event, and every single thing that happens in our lives. God will give us the strength we need to face any obstacle thrown in our direction, through the mercy of His righteousness.

Let's look at the New Testament now and see some examples of how God has our comfort in His mind when everything in our life is taking place. Let's turn to the Book of John and read about our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ referring to a solution offered in a very familiar verse to all of us: **"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)**. Jesus, the Christ presents a classic and unique example to us because He has overcome this world as Scripture tells us, and that means that Christ has overcome absolutely anything and everything that the world can throw at us at any given time, and we must remain of good cheer, and fear not.

Over to the Book of Romans, we'll pick up a few verses there: **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28)**. And dropping down to verses 37-39 here in Romans 8: **"Nay, in all these things we are no more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** It does not matter what the world can do in our way, there can be absolutely nothing separating us from the love of God the Father, and the mercy of His Son, Jesus, the Christ. Continuing here in the Book of Romans 15: **"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13)**. Turning now to Philippians: **"Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6)**.

God's comfort begins by us getting on our knees, each and every day, every morning that we wake up, and asking in prayer for God's guidance and comfort in our lives. Right before we do

anything regarding tasks, errands, appointments, or even getting up and making that fresh cup of coffee and breakfast, God's comfort begins on our knees daily, and we must take this into practice if we are to experience God's peace.

Going now to the Book of Hebrews: ***"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5).***

Brethren, we must truly rely on the Word of God to fully understand what God wants us to do during perilous times. Every single one of the verses we have read talk about a specific quality, action, and responsibility we must adhere to as Christians in order to properly and effectively take action unto everything that God puts throughout our lives. During difficult times, Jesus Christ is very specific in His Words to the Gospel because there is not one situation that hardens or strains our heart that God does not provide His Word as the guide for the solution. It is incredibly hard and difficult to be able to exemplify these things which have been spoken to us because we are human beings that demonstrate emotions throughout our entire lives. Now, God does not say that we should just forget what happened to our lives and move on. But instead, God's comfort is there as a reminder to us through His Holy Scriptures that everything that's happened in this world has been overcome by Him, and Jesus, the Christ. God constantly reminds us throughout the Bible because He wants us to understand that during different periods of time since man's creation that God does not leave His select few alone, ever. God will always be there for us. ALWAYS!! ***"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 effective 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 steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3-7).*** 7

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