

Christ in Our Sufferings

By John Thiel, [mp3](#)

Scripture reading: Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I wish to worship God with you by manifesting a comfort by which I am comforted. The work of a minister, of a true servant of God, is described in the following words:

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed [be] God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 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. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 6 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.

These are profound words. The ministers, the true ministers, such as Apostle Paul, actually go through afflictions so that they might experience the sufferings of Christ abounding in them, so that their consolation might also abound by Christ; and thus their comfort is for the consolation and salvation of the people that they serve. This really throws a powerful light upon the position of a minister. It is not just a cheap position. So it is my desire to share with you that which comforted me.

All Is Vanity

Our life on this planet is a life of very thwarted experiences. The Preacher describes what the life on this planet is:

Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all [is] vanity. 3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

He causes us to think: What profit is there in anything you do here on this planet? He further enlarges this:

Ecclesiastes 2:17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun [is] grievous unto me: for all [is] vanity and vexation of spirit. 22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? 23 For all his days [are] sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

As the Preacher looks back at his life, he, as the king, had life to the fullest; he was richly blessed of God; and he did what his heart desired. But when he came at the end of that, he said, I hate life. Anything under the sun in this planet is *vexation of spirit*; there are disappointments and sadness. After I had hoped for happiness, there is nothing on this planet; it's all vanity.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of [such as were] oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors [there was] power; but they had no comforter. 2 Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive. 3 Yea, better [is he] than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

But some of us might think, I don't really identify with him there. Well, you might not now; but later on you will. The fact is that what is written here is the dismal reality of anything that is done on this planet. It is dismal indeed when you hope for something beautiful, and it turns bitter in your proverbial mouth. How many of us can look back and say, "I wanted this, and it didn't come about; I was miserably disappointed"?

On Satan's Enchanted Ground

We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. {GC 601.1}

Everything that people have lived for is about to come up in front of them.

Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. ... We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose.

Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. {Ibid.}

This is where we are on this planet. *We are on Satan's enchanted ground.* Dismal, isn't it?

Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey. {Ibid.}

This is our position, especially so now in these last moments of earth's history. Ponder and look honestly back at your life. What has it been like? I mean without the hope that you have in God. Looking at what you have planned and tried to work towards and tried to achieve. O as I look at it, even in the realm of godly hopefulness, from the age of twenty onwards it was nothing different than what we are reading here.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all [is] vanity and vexation of spirit. 15 [That which is] crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

It is true. I couldn't make straight that which went crooked. It's impossible. You have to live through it. The consequence of Adam and Eve's sin, and of all our sins, is that there is nothing you can do to stop it; nothing. No matter how much we try to reason around it, you are going to meet it; and we *are* meeting the consequences that are our mistakes of life. We will meet it, we are meeting it, and when it comes to Jacob's trouble, we will meet it. Here, then, is the description of the dismal position of this planet earth that we live in where all our hopes and aspirations are shattered. And then we think, What is life worth living for?

A Gift to the Sinner's Shattered Hopes

But upon this life that every human being comes into with hope, and ultimately disappointed hope, God looks. He looks at every human being on this planet with all the shattered hopes and horrible disappointments and discouraging circumstances, and He says what Jesus said to Nicodemus: *For God so loved the world.* God looks at our miserable state on Satan's enchanted ground, and His heart of love goes out to us and He says, I want to help these poor souls. What does He say?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

To contemplate this is the important thing to be saved, because nothing that you do on this earth outside of the love of God is going to fill you with comfort and satisfaction. It is dismal.

Look upon the entry of Jesus whom God gave and sent to us. Look upon Him entering into this life. Was it dismal for Him? We want to consider the detail of Jesus. What was meant by the words of Jesus that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son”? He gave His only begotten to come into the midst of this planet’s experience; and what does He meet? The moment He was born He was already under the threat of death. And by a miracle of God’s intervention He continued to live on this planet.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him.

The Jews expected Him to satisfy their anticipated hopes, to redeem them from the Roman bondage. But what was it? Disappointed hopes, even in His birth. There was nothing comely about Him for them to be attracted to.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

When you read this, you think, Well, that’s not my experience; I love Him; I don’t hide my face from Him. But when you really look at it, you see that this statement is true. Self does not want the real Jesus; no. *He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.* We don’t want to see the detail of the grief and the horror for the purpose that it was given.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his

grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in his mouth.

This is who God gave to us on this planet. And that dismal description takes some time to comprehend. We read it from our perspective of knowing that He died for my sins and it's okay; we sort of seem to take courage in that. But when you really read it and you see it in its application, self is not pleased. By His experience we see something. He came to this planet and entered into dismal disappointments.

Dismal Disappointments of the Son of God

God addresses Jesus in the following words, and says to Him:

Isaiah 49:3 ...Thou [art] my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified. 4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain:

Isn't that what the Preacher preached? It's all vanity; everything I have done is *vain*. And this is the words of Jesus as well, because it is Jesus who is speaking here: *I have laboured in vain, I have spent My strength for nought, and in vain.*

Isaiah 49:3 ...[yet] surely my judgment [is] with the LORD, and my work with my God. 5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb [to be] his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

Do you notice something here? He is actually saying, I came here for the purpose of saving Israel, and what success have I had? But I came here to do God's will; that was all.

Isaiah 49:6 And [God] said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

So Jesus did not feel that His life and labour on this earth was successful. But God said, *It is*; and You will be for a light even to the Gentiles. Don't become disheartened, although Your labour may have been and appear to You in vain.

As the world's Redeemer, Christ was constantly confronted with apparent failure. {DA 678.3}

He didn't feel that He came successfully to redeem.

He, the messenger of mercy to our world, seemed to do little of the work He longed to do in uplifting and saving. Satanic influences were constantly working to oppose His way. {Ibid.}

That was His experience.

But He would not be discouraged. Through the prophecy of Isaiah He declares, "I have labored in vain, I have spent My strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely My judgment is with the Lord, and My work with My God. . . {Ibid.}

He would not be discouraged, even though it looked dismal. He was indeed on the dismal ground of Satan's influences that we are all under.

His was the lot of every human being that is born here on earth. But let us continue to consider Him. Let us continue to look upon the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Looking unto the Real Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

So it was for the joy that was set before Him that He did all this, but not for Him to see at the present time. All He could see while on this planet was His dismal apparent failure. As you know, His very closest disciples, when He was captured by the mob, all forsook Him and fled—His closest friends. What a dismal disappointment.

And when He was in the garden of Gethsemane, He was praying, and He wanted them to pray for Him and for themselves, but what a dismal disappointment He met. It was real spiritual disappointment for Christ. But we are to look unto *the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,*

Hebrews 12:2 ...despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Do you sometimes feel that way? I do. I was hoping for this and for that, and it's different to what I hoped for; and I become weary and faint in my mind. This is what happened to me when I was looking after my precious wife. It didn't look very nice. It looked like a total failure to the natural human mind. There were promises of God that were claimed, and it didn't happen. And she herself went through experiences in which she had to ask herself, What is this

all about? I don't understand. And as I heard those words being uttered, I also was tempted to think, I don't understand. There was the precious promise that "*I am the Lord that healeth thee*", and she was looking for healing; and it didn't happen.

In my past experience, I had seen those promises of healing being fulfilled time and time again. But when I was praying for her, I didn't see it. Can you imagine how I felt? I saw rheumatic fever being healed in front of my eyes. I saw osteomyelitis being healed in front of my eyes by claiming the promises of God and following His instruction. I saw the restoration of an alcoholic brain damage, a restoration so total that the doctor said they had never discharged a person from a psychiatric hospital cured from alcoholic brain damage; it had never happened before in his life. I saw that happen. I saw a person who had epileptic fits completely restored from epileptic fits. I saw my own heart condition restored by God. But when it came to my wife, I couldn't see restoration in answer to that prayer. Dismal failure.

But in all this, when things appear as though it is total failure, what is it in Jesus that Jesus is to us? What is it in reality? Is it to prevent suffering which is the lot of man? We want to hear that, don't we? We want to hear the wonderful answer to prayer, that we will not have to suffer the things that others suffer. When the promises are there that say, You will have none of these diseases upon you, and yet we do, and we look for the answer for that promise, then if it doesn't happen, how do you feel? Do you need comfort? Is there comfort when everything looks a failure? Did Jesus come to prevent suffering and failure? Is that what He came for? Oh no. This is what God showed me. Oh no. It is poetic fancy when we take hold of God's word in every respect and think we are going to be alleviated from affliction, pain, and suffering, and disappointments, and discouraging circumstances. It is poetic fancy.

Light to the Soul Shrouded in Darkness

But what is it that will bring light out of the darkness, that will bring light to a person who is going through bitter disappointments, when he comes to a point where nothing makes sense anymore? Can God's wonderful word come in and comfort you, so that Jesus comes in as we look at Him and comforts us? I love this following statement; it is meaningful; it is resplendent with the glory of God:

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So here is the point: In the heart that is overwhelmed by darkness, there shines the light of Jesus, *the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus*.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 [We are] troubled on every side, yet not distressed; [we are] perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Do we understand these words? I now do in a dimension that brings tears to my eyes. Everything on this planet is trouble. Everything perplexes. Everything is persecutionary. But there is something in Jesus that lifts the spirit out of the darkness, because Jesus died and rose again. So we bear in our body the dying of the Lord Jesus—the disappointed hopes, as Jesus experienced them, are there in our experience—so that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our bodies, *for we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh*.

So when we meet all the disappointments of life, what is suggested here? When we are surrounded by the darkness that wants to oppress us and destroy our peace, to perplex us and cause us to despair, to cause us to be distressed, to feel forsaken, and destroyed, there is something in Jesus which, in the circumstances that would make us feel that way, will cause us to come forth rejoicing. What is it that makes this happen? It is because when we meet those disappointments of life, God is right there. He came to us in our miserable-enchanted-ground experience; He came and experienced it with us, so that when we go through those disappointments of life, I am not in the darkness, because the light of God is shining in that circumstance.

At-one-ment

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Jesus came and died in the disappointment that each one of us experiences. He died in it; He couldn't see through the portals of the tomb. It was blackness to Him. And in that experience of dying He had to break through the blackness by

faith; and we can look at Him and trust, as He did, that we ourselves may be raised up out of that darkness, as He Himself was raised up.

The reality that Jesus was there with us and we are going to be there in that horrible experience is expressed here:

We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; {DA 130.4}

This is in relation to what Jesus went through in the wilderness. It was horrifying to Him. After forty days and forty nights of nothing to eat, His face was marred more than any person; He was in a most horrifying position; He was in darkness; and the devil comes to Him. Can you imagine? The devil was permitted to tempt Him to the uttermost. Jesus needed strength from the Father in heaven; and when we go through these experiences we need strength from the Father in heaven, like He did. *We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power. He has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices.* Did Jesus stand in His own strength? Not at all. This is why He could conquer. And He was in the misery of life here with us. He came to show something that we need to understand.

Afflicted With Us

Isaiah 63:8 For he said, Surely they [are] my people, children [that] will not lie: so he was their Saviour. 9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

What is the statement? In all our afflictions He was afflicted. Does that say that we won't have the afflictions? No; we are all afflicted with the things that happen to every human being on this earth. But in all of our afflictions *He was afflicted*. So it is in our afflictions, as we are going through the terrible trauma of what every person that lives on this planet has to go through, that Jesus is there, that God is there, afflicted with us.

Let us now explore some profound statements that really unveil this reality to us, so that in whatever we go through we may have this amazing light in the darkness. In *all* our afflictions He was afflicted—this means that whatever affliction we go through He went through it with us.

We have a Saviour who understands every phase of our life. He knows of our discouragements, and He knows just what help we need. We want a faith in Him, a faith that works by love and purifies the soul. {2MCP 673.5}

What does He understand? *Every phase of our life.*

In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness. The prince of this world came to Christ after His long fast, when He was an hungered, and suggested to Him to command the stones to become bread. But the plan of God, devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger [a horrifying hunger], and poverty, and every phase of man's experience. {1SM 408.2}

So whatever my experiences are, with all their horrible darkness, next time you go through a dark patch like that, remember this: Jesus knows every phase of our life, because He went through it. He could not save Himself from that, because if He had He could not have given us light in the darkness. If Jesus had anything that we don't have in the darkness, we would be overwhelmed. Jesus would not refer to His divine powers. He relied on the help from His Father. Jesus met every phase, every grief of ours.

It is a great kindness on the part of our heavenly Father when He allows us to be placed under circumstances that lessen the attractions of earth, and lead us to place our affections on things above. Frequently, the loss of earthly blessings teaches us more than their possession. When we pass through trials and afflictions, it is no evidence that Jesus does not love and bless us. {OHC 327.4}

This is the temptation when you go through it. You think, "Where is my God? You're not loving me; you're not helping me." This is the thought that goes through your mind. But we are told that *when we pass through trials and afflictions, it is no evidence that Jesus does not love and bless us.*

The pitying Lamb of God identifies His interest with that of His suffering ones. He guards them every moment. He is acquainted with every grief; He knows every suggestion of Satan, every doubt that tortures the soul. . . . {*Ibid.*}

How does He know it? Because He went through it.

He is pleading the case of the tempted, the erring, and the faithless. He is striving to lift them into companionship with Himself. It is His work to sanctify His people, to cleanse, ennoble, and purify them, and fill their hearts with peace. {*Ibid.*}

Here it is all so powerfully expressed to us. He knows the tortures and doubts of every soul because He Himself went through it. And He came to this earth so that He could go through it and be with us. This in fact is what is meant with salvation. This knowledge is salvation to us who must meet the consequences of our mistakes and sins. We will not be spared from meeting the consequences and the failures of our life. We will meet them. We will meet it and we will go through it. Jesus comes to save us in that experience.

Whatever Comes

Jesus suffered every grief. Now you may wonder what grief of disease He could possibly have suffered. We on this planet suffer from diseases and sicknesses. Did He have that too? I ask you this question in suggestion: Did Jesus suffer our diseases? Wasn't He always healthy?

Wondrous combination of man and God! He might have helped His human nature to withstand the inroads of disease by pouring from His divine nature vitality and undecaying vigor to the human. But He humbled Himself to man's nature. He did this that the Scripture might be fulfilled; and the plan was entered into by the Son of God, knowing all the steps in His humiliation, that He must descend to make an expiation for the sins of a condemned, groaning world. What humility was this! It amazed angels. The tongue can never describe it; the imagination cannot take it in. The eternal Word consented to be made flesh! God became man! It was a wonderful humility. {5BC 1127.2}

If He had relied on His divine nature, could He have suffered the terrible pangs of His experience in Gethsemane? Could He have suffered the death which is a consequence of our diseases and sins? It is written here. He *could* have done it if He had exercised His divine nature;

He might have helped His human nature to withstand the inroads of disease by pouring from His divine nature vitality and undecaying vigor to the human. But He humbled Himself... {Ibid.}

This is what it says elsewhere: He *bare our sicknesses*. He carried *our* sicknesses. So whatever experience we meet, Jesus met it. Whatever comes, every grief, even to the point of disease. And this detail is salvation to us in the time of our bereavement, of our disease-riddled condition; when you think God would have healed my diseased wife, but He wouldn't—terrible thought—and she died with that disease. And it looks like a disappointment of any promise that God would have made. Well, here is the lesson that the Lord used in my experience with my wife to bring me comfort. And it is the comfort which by God's grace

and faith I imparted to her; and she did meet this with the strength that comes from God.

Christ was suffering as the members of the human family suffer under temptation; but it was not the will of God that He should exercise His divine power in His own behalf. Had He not stood as our representative, Christ's innocence would have exempted Him from all this anguish, but it was because of His innocence that He felt so keenly the assaults of Satan. All the suffering which is the result of sin was poured into the bosom of the sinless Son of God. Satan was bruising the heel of Christ, but every pang endured by Christ, every grief, every disquietude, was fulfilling the great plan of man's redemption. Every blow inflicted by the enemy was rebounding on himself. Christ was bruising the serpent's head. {3SM 129.1}

As Jesus went through this, He went through what each one of us will meet as a consequence of our own wrong doing. We will meet it; we won't escape it. But He went through it so that the salvation that we need when I am going through it might come into light. And so it is that a believer who goes through a lingering disease finally ending in death, from which there is no reprieve, actually has Jesus with them.

There Is One Event unto All

Are the wicked free from disappointment, perplexity, earthly losses, poverty, and distress? Many of them suffer a lingering sickness, yet have no strong and mighty One to lean upon, no strengthening grace from a higher power to support them in their weakness. They lean upon their own strength. They obtain no consolation by looking forward to the future, but a fearful uncertainty torments them; and thus they close their eyes in death, not finding any pleasure in looking forward to the resurrection morn, for they have no cheering hope that they shall have part in the first resurrection. . . . {OHC 9.3}

On the other hand,

The Christian is subject to sickness, disappointment, poverty, reproach, and distress. {OHC 9.4}

Isn't that the *every phase of our life* that Jesus met?

But the Christian Has Hope

Yet amid all this he loves God, he chooses to do His will, and prizes nothing so highly as His approbation. In the conflicting trials and changing scenes of

this life, he knows that there is One who knows it all, One who will bend His ear low to the cry of the sorrowful and distressed, One who can sympathize with every sorrow and soothe the keen anguish of every heart. {OHC 9.4}

O when I saw that happening, that the prayer that was uttered for my wife soothed her and put her to sleep, this was comfort to my soul.

Amid all his affliction, the Christian has strong consolation. And if God permits him to suffer a lingering, distressing sickness before he closes his eyes in death, he can with cheerfulness bear it all. . . . He contemplates the future with heavenly satisfaction. A short rest in the grave, and then the Life-giver will break the fetters of the tomb, release the captive, and bring him from his dusty bed immortal, never more to know pain, sorrow, or death. Oh, what a hope is the Christian's! Let this hope of the Christian be mine. Let it be yours. {OHC 9.5}

This is the comfort that I was comforted with. Here are the words of Jesus. As we go through our experiences, there is not a single phase of life that He has not gone through in His own experience; and He speaks so emphatically in following words:

Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to battle with evil, and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow. Though now He is hidden from mortal sight, the ear of faith can hear His voice saying, Fear not; I am with you. {DA 483.1}

We know He is because He was there.

"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore." Revelation 1:18. I have endured your sorrows, experienced your struggles, encountered your temptations. I know your tears; I also have wept. The griefs that lie too deep to be breathed into any human ear, I know. {Ibid.}

Because He went through it.

Think not that you are desolate and forsaken. Though your pain touch no responsive chord in any heart on earth, look unto Me, and live. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:10. {Ibid.}

Those words need to be remembered. And why is Jesus able to say all that? It is because He came through every phase of our life and was touched by living it through with all our afflictions.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The time of need is when I go through my consequences, when I go through my shocking experiences. And God permits me to go through it. And as I do, I need to remember I have the help of someone who has gone through it with me.

He is my comfort; and He comforted me dramatically through this material I have just shared with you.

Courage in the Lord.

Amen.