



Finding comfort in the comforter

John 14:16-17) *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.... he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Words of Ministry

Comfort is a primary issue for the human heart. People want to live in heart-comfort, not stress, fear or trouble. We also live in a very pampered culture in North America. People expect many things as their solemn right to comfort. It is amazing when you talk with some people what they assume is their “right”: a life of ease, all modern conveniences, etc. The truth is that we live in a generation that believes personal comfort is a birthright.

Jesus promised to send us a Comforter, not a life of ease. He promised that He Himself would return in the Spirit to live with and in us as the One who would comfort our lives. The comfort He promised is HIS CONDITION, not ours. In essence, Jesus promised to enter into us and fill our hearts with the very comfort He has in His relationship with the Father: *“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you” (John 14:20)*. This is the nature of His comfort to us.

People want a comfortable life. But Jesus said that we would have the comfort of HIS LIFE, not primarily the comfort of an outer life of ease. We seek “comfort” in all the wrong things. We think comfort is *external*, that it comes from some “thing” – a relationship, money, a vacation, a nice home, etc. So we are always seeking for comfort in the next “thing” that will ease our busy lives, or bring a sense of relief to our mountain-load of responsibilities.

The truth is that comfort is an *inward Person*, not an *external thing*. Christ has come to us as “The Comforter”. What He calls us to is to seek Him as our comfort in any and all circumstances. He wants us to actually enter into the comfort that He Himself enjoys because He is one with the Father.

It’s an ironic thing about comfort that in the effort to seek and maintain your own comfort in external things that you are never really able to relax or be truly comfortable. You give up the inner peace that is your spiritual state with Christ in favor of trying to derive that sense of inner peace from some external situation. So instead of resting in the inherent comfort of your own spirit where Christ dwells with you, you look for a comfortable situation, “out there”.

When you realize this, it seems utterly insane that we keep falling into this trap. That we’re really that disoriented. But we are. From an early age we are taught to look outside for comfort, and almost everything in our culture encourages it. At the root of this search for your own comfort is the illusion of yourself being separate from Christ as your very life (See Col 3:4). It’s a self-serving pattern of thought that makes you look at everything in the world in terms of how it affects you and your isolated state of comfort. And because it’s based in the illusion of a separate identity from Christ, it is loaded with fear and suffering.

The illusion is that you will become free of the fear or suffering by gaining external comfort, but the truth is that the suffering is inherent in the search itself and has nothing to do with your situation as such. If you are in suffering and then suddenly win lots of money in the lottery and feel better, your comfort is based in the illusion that it is derived from an external situation. And it is only a matter of time before the effects of that illusion start to fade.

In thinking that inner peace and comfort can be derived from an external situation, we separate our faith from the truth that, inwardly, we are one spirit with Christ (1 Cor 6:17). Then we believe that we live in a cruel and unfair world where true comfort is only available to a select few who make it; a world that can *give* you, and therefore *deprive* you of, inner peace.

Beloved, Christ alone is your comfort. Enter into His condition by faith. Turn your seeking towards Him, not towards the things in the world. The exercise of simply disregarding your own comfort in external things by believing into the comfort of Christ can help you see through the world’s conditioning. You will find a comfort that cannot be taken away, or diminished by your circumstance.

Christ has come as your comforter. He is with you and He is in you to extend His comfort in the Father’s presence into your spirit. And with a heart that know this peace there is neither fear nor doubt, but only confidence that God will take care of whatever needs taking care of in your life.