

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## The God Of All Comfort

(Jerry Fite)

**W**hat does the word “comfort” mean to you? Many a mind will quickly revert to “warm and fuzzy” feelings. Soft words, a fluffy pillow, or some hot and crusty “mac-and-cheese” convey comfort in our day.

Instead of “softness”, we should recognize something of “strength” in the very word “comfort.” The Latin root “*fortis*” is in the English word denoting strength or protection, like a “*fort*”. The Greek word translated “comfort” conveys the concept of “*calling to the side*” of someone. Can we not come to the side of someone offering strength, and accomplish comfort?

Paul opens his second epistle to the Corinthians thanking God for being a “God of all comfort”. “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*” (2 Corinthians 1:3). Paul in the next eight verses uses the word “comfort” as a noun or verb some nine times. Endurance of sufferings and deliverance from death are the results of God’s

comfort, denoting strength, not softness.

### COMFORT – PAUL’S DELIVERANCE

Paul speaks of his experience in Asia where he despaired of life. “*...we were weighed down exceedingly, beyond our own power, insomuch that we despaired even of life: yea we ourselves have had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead*” who delivered us out of so great a death and will deliver...” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10). Paul knew from the depths of his being that he was about to die, but the God of all comfort came with deliverance. He was reminded with such comfort that he should trust in God, not himself.

### COMFORT – ENDURING SUFFERINGS

Paul’s antidote for the sufferings of Christ was the comfort he received from the same. “*For as the sufferings of Christ abound unto us, even so our comfort also aboundeth through Christ*” (2 Corinthians 1:5). What did this

comfort create in the life of Paul and all Christians suffering for the cause? This comfort “*worketh in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer*” (2 Corinthians 1:6) God’s comfort in Christ comes to the side of the suffering with strength that encourages one to remain faithful and keep going.

### COMFORT – SHARING

When we experience the deliverance and enduring power from the God of all comfort, we are equipped to then help others in their affliction. The God of all comfort “*comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort them in any affliction, through the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God*” (2 Corinthians 1:4). For example, we can come to the side of teenagers whose peers are “speaking evil of them” because they do not “party” with them. We can comfort them with the reminder that they are pleasing God and God’s glory rests upon them (1 Peter 4:4, 14). “Soft and fuzzy” words, no, but they are comforting words creating strength.