

“Comfort, Comfort My People”

Isaiah 40:1

May 3, 2020

Family, today I pray that you will be comforted...

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

INTRO:

- What **haunts** you... & what **helps** you?
- What **destabilizes** you... & what **equalizes** you?
- What **corrupts** you... & what **corrects** you?

I am trying to help you to look at your emotional
and spiritual state...

What COMFORTS you?

(Is it what you WANT or what you NEED?)

(How well & how long?)

Isaiah 40:1

“Comfort, comfort My people, says your God”

(a small text... a gigantic truth!)

PREVIEW: CALLED... COMMANDED... COMMISSIONED

- God's PLAN (see Eden & Heaven)
- God's POWER (see John 14:16 & Acts 1:8)
- God's PROMISE (see Isaiah 40:1 & others)
- God's PURPOSE (see Great Commission)
- God's PEOPLE (see John 3:16)

CONTEXT: (COMFORT... from the world to the Word...)

➤ The world in chaos... vs. victory over virus!

Comfort = surrendering to victory/Vaccine!

- The series this year... Gospel Gardening
 - Focus: Christ, Christianity, & the Church
 - Gospel *Patterns, Promises, & Presence*
 - GG13 = Hezekiah, Isaiah, & Sennacharib

- The sermon last week... Jude 1:1-4
 - Contending for the faith...
 - A Call, a Command, a Commission
 - My daily videos to follow up...
 - An active exhortation...
 - Contending by Defending
 - Contending by Loving
 - Contending by Defining
 - Contending by Combatting
 - Contending by BE-ing

We contend for the faith by COMFORTING the family of God... and Christians comfort the family of God by contending for the faith!

EXEGESIS:

“Comfort, comfort My people, says your God”

- 7 English but only 5 Hebrew words...
- ALL 5 words = COMFORTING!
- Loaded with theological & eternal weight...
- *Let's unpack this verse & then celebrate its victory!*

Biblical “comfort” is the faithful fruit of a believer’s righteous right-standing in redeemed restoration. - JDP

- Today... **Isaiah 40:1... (Isaiah to Hezekiah)**

“Comfort, comfort My people, says your God”

“a passage of singular beauty, breathing the spirit of new-born hope & enthusiasm...The announcement of a miraculous restoration of the exiles...” - Calvin

***** “Miraculous restoration” is the key to comfort! ***** - JDP

BIG IDEA: *God’s gospel comforts God’s people!*
(The Comforter captures the comforted. - JDP)

T/S: **John 14:16... plus Isaiah 51:12a**

16*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter/Helper/Counselor, to be with you forever... & “I, even I, am He who comforts you...”*

I. CALLED to COMFORT

➤ John 20:21... 1st John 3:17-18... Acts 2:41-47

“Comfort...”

What is and what is NOT biblical comfort? (Noun & VERB)

Comfort comes with a Christian's effectual calling. - JDP

Comfort... IS BE-ing right with & restored to God!

- His discipline comforts us... Isaiah 40:1
- His Church comforts us... Galatians 6:2
- His love comforts us... Matthew 28:20

*You will NEVER find true Christ-like comfort in compromise or complacency. No. **Complacency kills comfort.** It's like spiritual gluttony. Instead, Christ-like comfort comes with Christian com-*passion* – passion for our Christ & His Church.*

In the same way, comfort will never come with laziness or luke-warmness... No! Comfort is found when personal potential & purity of purpose are engaged with passion.

You are never more comforted than when you KNOW you are right where you belong, in a righteous right-standing with your Creator and His created purpose for your life. - JDP

Can you see comfort now?

Comfort is rooted in Christ's love! - JDP

Christ-like faith is comfort's fertilizer. - JDP

Comfort is watered by hope and blossoms in peace. - JDP

Comfort is the reward of repentance! - JDP

Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Comfort IS divine confidence! - JDP

- See 3 boys & their furnace...
- See Daniel & his lion's den...
- See Paul & Silas in the Philippian jail...
- See ALL the martyrs of Hebrews ch.11...
- See JESUS & Hebrews 12:1-2

*Comfort comes with **His work & our worship***

Pslam 23:4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; **your rod** and your staff,
they comfort me.*

II. COMMANDED to COMFORT

“Comfort, comfort...”

The exhortation to 'comfort' the people is to be understood as a command of God to those in Babylon whose office or duty it would be to address them - that is, to the ministers of religion, or to the prophets. - Barnes

- The Great Commandments...
- The Law of Christ! (Galatians 6:2)

Bear one another's burdens, & so fulfill the law of Christ.

III. COMMISSIONED to COMFORT

“Comfort, comfort...”

My people

says your God”

- **John 20:21**
- **Christians contend to comfort!** - JDP

1 Corinthians 1:3-7

God of All Comfort

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**, **4**who **comforts** us in all our affliction, **so that** we may **be able to comfort** those who are in any affliction, **with the comfort** with which we **ourselves are comforted by God**. **5**For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we **share abundantly in comfort too**. **6**If we are **afflicted, it is for your comfort** and salvation; and **if we are comforted**, it is for your **comfort**, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. **7**Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also **share in our comfort**.

2 Corinthians 7:13

Therefore, we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

REVIEW:

1. Christians are **CALLED** to Comfort
2. Christians are **COMMANDED** to Comfort
3. Christians are **COMMISSIONED** to Comfort!

T/S: This passage is another **PATTERN of The **GOSPEL**!**

CLOSE: The BRIDGE Manifesto manifests biblical comfort!



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).” – Acts 1:8

One Question: *WHAT DO YOU WANT?*
One Offer: *COME AND SEE.*
One Promise: *TRUTH IN LOVE!*

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
- 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
- 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
- 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
- 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
- 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly* loving one another)
- 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
- 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
- 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
- 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
- 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
- 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!

Comfort is the **first breath** of the gospel's miracle of life...

Comfort is **the eternal KNOWING** of the gospel's Messiah.

Comfort is the **privileged living** of the gospel's mission!

**May you be forever
comforted in Christ...
as you carry His truth and
love, while worshipfully
committed to BEing His
Church... no matter what!
Amen & AMEN**

Let's PRAY!