

Forty Days of Encouragement
2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed 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 will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

Scriptural Encouragement for Participation:

1. Isaiah promoted the ***ministry*** of encouragement. (Isa 35:3)

Encourage the ***exhausted***, and strengthen the feeble.

2. Paul described ***meaningful*** encouragement. (1 Thess. 5:11)

Therefore ***encourage*** one another and ***build up*** one another, just as you also are doing.

3. Paul urged the ***mission*** of encouragement. (1 Thess. 5:14)

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, ***encourage*** the ***fainthearted***, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

4. Paul spoke of seizing ***moments*** of encouragement. (Hebrews 3:13)

But ***encourage*** one another ***day after day***, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- I. The source of encouragement is ***God*** (v.3-4)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and ***God of all comfort***, who ***comforts us in all our affliction*** so that ***we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction*** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

1. God is the source of all ***comfort***. (v.3)

God of all comfort,

2. God comforts us in ***all*** our afflictions. (v.4a)

who ***comforts us in all our affliction***

3. God comforts ***others*** through us.(v.4b)

so that ***we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction***

- II. The ***suffering*** we experience is great. (V.5-6)

For just as ***the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance***, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

1. We ***will*** all experience suffering. (John 16:33)

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. ***In the world you have tribulation, but take courage***; I have overcome the world."

2. We should not ***waste*** or suffering. (v.6)

But if we are afflicted, ***it is for your comfort and salvation***;

3. We need help to ***work*** through our suffering.

If we are comforted, it is for your comfort, ***which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer***;

- III. The sharing of ***encouragement*** is a gift. (v.7)

Our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that ***as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort***.

1. We give encouragement through ***worship***. (Heb.10:25)

Don't forsake ***the assembling of yourselves together***, as is the habit of some, but ***encourage*** one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

2. We give encouragement through the ***Word***. (Rom 15:4)

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the ***encouragement of the Scriptures*** we might have hope.

3. We give encouragement through our ***work***. (Acts 11:23)

When ***Barnabas*** arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and ***began to encourage them all*** with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;

