

# Characteristics of God's Grace

(Part 7)

## Comforting Grace

**(2Co 1:3-4) Blessed God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 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.**

Through the Grace of our Great Creator, God's people are brought to an understanding of peace, comforting our souls in the turmoil's of this world, and even more important, the turmoil's of this flesh, the sin that is within us!

We sing this hymn; "Trusting Jesus"

Simply trusting every day, trusting through a stormy way,  
Even when my faith is small, trusting Jesus that is all.  
Brightly doth His Spirit shine, into this poor heart of mine,  
While He leads I cannot fall, trusting Jesus that is all.  
Singing if my path is clear, praying if the path be drear,  
If in danger for Him call, trusting Jesus that is all.  
Trusting Him while life shall last, trusting Him till earth be past,  
Till within the Jasper walls, trusting Jesus that is all.  
Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by,  
Trusting Him what-er befall, Trusting Jesus that is all.

**(Col 2:5) For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.**

I receive strength for my soul, when I witness the strength of our Lord in you!

That comforts me as I sojourn through this valley, a shadow of death to the believer; **“the God of all comfort; 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”**.

Simply put, we trust the almighty!

WE BELIEVE!

We believe What?

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD!

He who rules all that is even rules my heart, my mind, every part of my being, He is my Lord! Therefore, His very word is most precious to this poor sinner! And His word has much to say about the comfort of His people.

In (Isa 40:1) The Lord instructs the Prophet **“ Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God”**.

(Isa 40:2) **“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem”**, Jerusalem, (The people of God, His chosen, spiritual Israel), speak to her very heart, what will be a warming word to her troubles, acceptable, and comfortable; and **“and cry unto her”**, let it be proclaimed aloud, that all may hear and that God may bring an understanding of it. **“that her warfare is accomplished”**, Folks this life is a warfare; The saints of God have many enemies that we war against, sin, Satan, and the world; many battles to fight, great battles of afflictions, and the good fight of faith: this is **“accomplished”**; not that it will come to an end before this life is over, while our fleshly life goes on, there will be a continual conflict; yet all our enemies, including the ones that plague our mind are now conquered by Christ, and in a short time will be under the feet of his people; the Captain of their salvation, who has got the victory, is gone before us; the crown is laid up for them, and is sure unto them. Some interpret it, "her set or appointed time"; (Job 7:1) **Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?**,

**“accomplished”**; can be understood either of the time of deliverance from captivity: or of the time of the Messiah's coming, the fulness of time, when He should appear, afterwards prophesied of;

We could apply this as well, to the servitude and bondage of the law being put at an end, and of all the fatigue, labor, and trouble of that dispensation; and of the Gospel dispensation taking place: because of what comes next, **“that her iniquity is pardoned”**: which is God's act. This act flows from His free and Sovereign grace, it was obtained by the blood of Christ, it is full and complete, and yields great relief, great comfort to guilty minds.

The punishment that was bore by our surety; "is accepted". God is Just in pardoning us from our sin for God has **“provided Himself a Lamb for a burnt offering”** (Gen. 22:8), He hath Bore the sins of His people in his own body, a body prepared from old;

**(Heb 10:3-10) But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

This is very comforting to me a sinner, not only do I have a substitute, that Substitute, that sacrifice is God Himself in the flesh, perfect in every way, pure, Righteous!

We go on to read (Heb 10:11-14) **And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

Continuing in (Isa 40:2) the last part **“for she** ( Jerusalem, Spiritual Israel, God’s chosen people), **hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins”**. Please allow me to lean on brother John Gill for this meaning; *“which may be understood either of a sufficiency of chastisements for sin; though they are not more, but less, than are deserved, yet are as much as their heavenly Father, in his great tenderness and compassion, thinks are enough; and though they are in measure, and do not exceed, yet are in large measure often, at least in their own apprehension: or else of the large and copious blessings of grace and goodness received, instead of punishment for sins, that might be expected: or rather at the complete satisfaction made by Christ for her sins, and of her receiving at the Lord's hands, in her surety, full punishment for them; not that more was required than was due, but that ample satisfaction was made, and, being infinite, fully answers the demerit of sin; and this being in the room and stead of God's people, clears them, and yields comfort to them”*.

This word of our troubles being conquered by our substitute, is comforting indeed! It’s our only peace in this world and in this flesh!

The words of the prophet Zech. Declares this comfortable statement to the Israeli Captives of Babylon; (Zech 1:12-14) **Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years? And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words. So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.**

The Lord of Glory is Jealous for His people!

The Apostle Paul puts it in a very clear way, writing to the church at Rome and to all saints to come;

(Rom 8:31) **What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?** Does that not bring comfort to one who knows our depravity, our inability to do, say, or even think of ourselves in anyway, that pleases God?

**(Rom 8:32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

When we consider His Majesty, His Holiness, His perfection, His Sovereignty, His power in the giving of Himself for us, is there anything that can come between God's people and the one that loves them with an everlasting Love? What is of more value than His only begotten Son? God gave us everything there is to Give, He gave Himself for you and I!

**(Rom 8:33-34) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.** Comfort ye, comfort ye my people! Our God, in His Son, The Lord Jesus, has conquered everything we need to be in His presence for eternity! (Rom 8:1) **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,** God cannot condemn that which He has already condemned! He condemned His Son! (Isa 53:5) **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.** I brought this out last Sunday, have you ever noticed when it comes to the Lord's people, sin is treated as a sickness? To the natural, unregenerated man it is referred to as a crime punishable by death, eternal death, but to you and I, to those He has loved from the foundation of the world, we are to be pitied, a sickness to be healed, restored to health! That's because Christ died in our stead, the Holy Justice of our crime was laid upon Him! Justifying us in His Love.

**Rom 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Folks, tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and the sword? Some or all of these are going to be part of Life in this world, your not alone! My perils may not be as yours, and I doubt your nakedness is as mine, but we are not alone in this, God has given us each other to give Comfort to each other in our times of weakness!

**(2Co 1:3-4) Blessed God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 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.**

Through the loving Grace of our great and mighty Savior, you and I have been brought together to comfort one another, pointing each other to our only great Comforter!

**Col 2:1** For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

**Col 2:2** That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

**Col 2:3** In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Col 2:4** And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

**Col 2:5** For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

**Col 2:6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:

**Col 2:7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

**Col 2:8** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

**Col 2:9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**Col 2:10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

**Col 2:11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

**Col 2:12** Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

**Col 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

**Col 2:14** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Folks we can rest with full assurance in the Authority, in the Power, in the Will, in the Determination of He who is God in the Flesh! Jesus Christ the Lord!

He is our comfort, we are comforted know this; He is Sovereign, and He is Gracious! and He is Life!

**Joh 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

**Joh 6:64** But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

**Joh 6:65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

**Joh 6:66** From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

**Joh 6:67** Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

**Joh 6:68** Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

**Joh 6:69** And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.