



A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS

PURPOSEFUL PAIN

*Comforted by Christ
to comfort others*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

GRACE POINT CHURCH

THE BIG IDEA

God comforts suffering sinners through Christ so that their pain becomes a means of comforting others.

Biblical comfort is more than relief from hard circumstances. The Father of mercies meets us in our affliction, teaches us to rely on the God who raises the dead, and equips us to carry His comfort into the suffering of others.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"The God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction..."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

Where do I most need God's comfort today? How might He be forming something in me that can one day serve someone else?

REFLECT AND RESPOND

NAME YOUR AFFLICTION

Pain naturally turns our eyes inward. We may minimize it, hide it, compare it, or let it define us. Honest faith begins by naming the affliction before God without pretending that it does not hurt.

- + What happened - and what was lost?
- + Which fears, griefs, or broken relationships remain unnamed?
- + How has this suffering shaped the way I see God, myself, and others?

God does not ask us to deny affliction. He meets us in it as the Father of mercies.

What pain am I tempted to minimize, hide, or squander? Write honestly. You do not need to make it sound spiritual.

NAME WHAT HURTS

COUNTERFEIT COMFORTS

Suffering creates a hunger for relief. Satan exploits that hunger by offering comforts that numb, distract, isolate, or control without healing the heart. Counterfeit comfort promises escape but cannot carry us through affliction.

NUMB

What do I use to avoid feeling or facing my pain?

CONTROL

Where am I demanding certainty before I will trust God?

WITHDRAW

How has suffering tempted me to isolate from God's people?

Where am I turning instead of Christ? What does that refuge promise me - and what does it actually produce?

EXPOSE THE COUNTERFEIT

REMEMBER THE CROSS

Are you trying to get His comforts without His cross?

Christian comfort is not the promise of a painless life. Jesus entered suffering, bore sin, and passed through death for us. At the cross, we see that God is not distant from our pain. In the resurrection, we see that pain will not have the final word.

- + The cross tells me I am loved in the middle of suffering.
- + The resurrection tells me despair is never the end of the story.
- + Union with Christ gives me a comfort deeper than changed circumstances.

How does the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus speak to the pain I named? What gospel truth do I need to remember?

REMEMBER WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE

TRACE GOD'S COMFORT

Paul's affliction exceeded his strength and stripped away self-reliance. God's purpose was not to teach him that he was strong enough. It was to teach him to rely on the God who raises the dead.

"That was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:9

LOOK FOR GRACE

- + Where has God sustained me when I could not sustain myself?
- + How has He corrected, carried, or delivered me?
- + What has this affliction taught me about relying on Him?

Trace the evidence of God's comfort. Include quiet mercies, faithful people, corrected desires, and strength you know was not your own.

WHERE I HAVE SEEN GOD'S MERCY

SHARE THE COMFORT

God is not only working in you. He is also preparing to work through you. The comfort entrusted to you becomes a testimony that can help another suffering person believe that grace is possible for them too.

All the pain God has led us through may not actually be about us.

1

IDENTIFY

Listen for the pain you genuinely understand.

2

TESTIFY

Tell the truth about how Christ met you.

3

INVITE

Walk with the person toward Christ and His people.

Who might need the comfort God has entrusted to me? What can I share without making myself the hero or treating another person's pain as a project?

ONE PERSON I CAN COMFORT

DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 What affliction is hardest for you to name honestly?
- 02 Which counterfeit comfort most often competes for your trust?
- 03 How does the cross keep comfort from becoming shallow optimism?
- 04 Where have you seen God sustain or deliver you?
- 05 Whose testimony helped you believe that grace was possible?
- 06 Who might God be preparing you to comfort?

PRAY: Praise the Father of mercies. Name the affliction. Confess false comforts. Ask for deeper reliance on Christ and an opportunity to comfort someone else.

NOTES AND PRAYER

WALKING IN COMFORT THIS WEEK

Suffering never gets the last word because God raises the dead.

Choose one concrete response in each movement of the sermon.

1

RECEIVE

Bring your pain honestly to the Father of mercies.

2

RELY

Replace one counterfeit comfort with a deliberate act of trust.

3

SHARE

Offer Christ-centered comfort to one suffering person.

"He delivered us... and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:10

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP