

## Receiving The Comfort of God Transcript

**Abe Meysenburg:** These videos describe an approach to care and provide tools for care in ordinary, everyday discipleship environments, including all of your missional community interactions and your DNA group.

I'll sometimes use the word **shepherding** in reference to this everyday care since it's a word found throughout the Bible to describe a caring, supportive, protective relationship.

A passage that will really root this whole concept of care is found in **2 Corinthians 1:3–5**, which says:

*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 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

What this means is that **we must receive the comfort of God if we want to give the comfort of God**. The inverse of that is also true—we cannot give what we have not received.

We've got this phrase: *the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction*. I want to begin there and talk specifically about this notion of God being **the God of all comfort**.

What comes to your mind when you hear that phrase?  
Maybe for some of you, it's hard to imagine God giving you comfort.

Well, this video is about the **God of all comfort** and what it means for Him to comfort us in all our affliction. I want to talk about **four truths** about God related to Him being the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

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### 1. God Is the God of Compassion

Exodus 32 records the story of God's people worshiping the golden calf as they waited for Moses to come down from Mount Sinai.

They hadn't been out of Egypt for very long. The great parting of the Red Sea was just weeks before, and here they are, **bowing down to a golden calf**.

In Exodus 33, God says to Moses, *I'm not going to go up to the promised land with you. You're going to have to go without me*.

Moses begs God to change His mind and says, *God, please show me Your glory*.

God responds by saying: *I will make all of My goodness pass before you, and I'm going to hide you in the cleft of the rock, and I'll pass by.*

We read in **Exodus 34:4–7** that Moses cut two new tablets of stone and went up Mount Sinai. The Lord descended in a cloud and proclaimed:

*The Lord, the Lord, a God compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...*

This becomes the **most repeated** summary of God's character in the Old Testament.

The word **compassion** comes from a Hebrew root meaning **to soothe, to cherish, to love deeply.**

In English, *compassion* means **to suffer with.** One definition says it means **to have tender affection.**

Here is **God Himself** describing His nature: **He is compassionate.**

He **suffers with us.**

He **has tender affection.**

When we need comfort, we want to go to someone who will meet us with tenderness, sensitivity, deep love, and compassion.

That is **who God is.**

Now, I realize that your experience of God may not align with this notion. But I want to start by showing what the Bible clearly teaches: **When we suffer, God suffers with us.**

God is waiting to **comfort us as His dearly loved children.**

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## 2. God Cares About Our Broken Hearts

Psalms 34:18 says:

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*

Psalms 147:3–4 says:

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.*

I love the contrast here:

The same God who numbers and names **the stars** is the God who **heals our broken hearts** and **binds up our wounds**.

He is powerful.  
And He is tender.

So as you think about this, what has caused **you** hurt or pain?

What are some painful moments in your story?  
What recent struggles have left you brokenhearted?

Imagine **God consoling you** in your pain.

When a child gets hurt, they need **consolation**. The pain doesn't disappear, but relationally, they receive what they need.

You need **consolation from the Father**.

Imagine yourself, with all your pain, **running to the Father**. Imagine Him **scooping you up**, holding you close, and **consoling you** in your hurt.

That is **who God is**.

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### 3. God Is Our Rock and Refuge

Psalms 18:2 says:

*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

Psalms 27:5 says:

*For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.*

God is like:

- A **castle** where we can dwell.
- A **cave** where we can hide.
- A **shield** we can stand behind.

What are you **afraid of** today?

What might be causing **fear** in your heart?

Imagine finding **refuge** in God's presence—feeling protected, secure, and safe.

Imagine yourself **being covered, surrounded, and shielded** by God Himself.

**This** is how God brings comfort to us in our fear.

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#### 4. God Collects Our Tears

Psalms 56:8 (NLT) says:

*You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in Your bottle.  
You have recorded each one in Your book.*

God sees **every tear you cry**.  
None of them are wasted.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:4:

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

What has brought **tears** to your eyes recently?  
What sadness have you been carrying?

Imagine God **wiping away your tears** and **comforting you** with His kind, loving presence.

This is what it means for God to be **the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort**.

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#### Jesus, the Ultimate Source of Comfort

Jesus was **crushed in spirit**.  
Jesus was **surrounded by enemies**.  
Jesus **wept**.  
Jesus was **a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief**.

On the cross, He cried out: *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*

Jesus **gave up His comfort**—His relationship with the Father—so that **you** could have **constant access** to the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

And this God **comforts us in all our afflictions**.