

Embrace the Journey3 “Comfort and Character”

Comfort is important to me. Character is important to God. I can't imagine that God really has an aversion to our comfort because He tells us that He will take our burdens and give us rest. Rest sounds pretty comfortable to me. Multiple times in scripture He promises peace. Peace sounds pretty comfortable to me. It is of great comfort to us to know that He will not forsake us and will always be with us; even in the shadow of death. He promises us that all things work together for good for the called. That brings comfort to me. The Holy Spirit is even called the Comforter, but in the course of God's plan, He would rather us grow in the image of His Son and develop the character that comes with the fruit of the Spirit, rather than just turning life's events so we would be comfortable. If He is prioritizing what He hopes to accomplish in our faith journey, Him building character in us comes before comfort for us. So while we seek comfort first in life, our Heavenly Father seeks something better for us. What do you really want in your faith journey? What God wants for each of us? Or what our limited and flawed perspective of life desires? Let's seek His will!

1. God does bring us comfort...but not simply to make us comfortable.

-If God's plan for us were comfort, then the short cut to comfort would simply be to eliminate all pain from our lives. So either that is not His plan or He is failing miserably in keeping us from pain.

2. His plans for us are greater than to simply make our lives comfortable.

-In our pain, He brings us comfort; actually, He is our comfort. He brings us peace that passes our natural understanding. Knowing God is sovereign and that He loves us and is bringing good for us, is the Comfort Provider we can rest on.

Questions:

Are you at peace with your life?

Are you at rest in the middle of your pain?

Philippians 4:6-7 NAS

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*The purpose for our pain?

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NAS

3 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.

-Are you doing this?

3. In our pain, He shapes our faith in Him.

-Jesus didn't simply live a life of comfort and neither do we. In our pain we choose to pray or seek pity. God's priority in us is our faith. He shapes our character as our faith in Him grows, and my character often grows most in life's difficulties.

Bottom Line - The comfort God brings may not be in the elimination of our pain, but rather, turning up of the volume of His peace in us.