

Strength & Comfort *for the Weak & Weary*

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NASB95):

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

I. *What God Has Done*

- In 1:1-2 Paul mentions God the Father and THEN the Lord Jesus Christ. In 2:16, he mentions them *in reverse order*. What can this teach us about Paul's view of the Son and the Father?

- Are you tempted to think of Jesus as loving and the Father as angry? (*Or vice-versa?*)

- Are you tempted at times to doubt God's love? What causes this in your life?
 - How can we assure our hearts that **He has loved us**?

- How does our eternal comfort and good hope for the future help/encourage us **now**?

- How is it comforting to know that God's work in/for us is **by grace**?



II. *What God Will Do*

➤ How does God **strengthen** our hearts?

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NASB95): 3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

1 Peter 5:10 (NASB95): 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Ephesians 3:14–19 (NASB95): 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,
17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

➤ How does God **comfort** our hearts?



2 Corinthians 1:3–5 (NASB95): 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.

5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

Acts 9:31 (NASB95): 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the **comfort of the Holy Spirit**, it continued to increase.

- What makes a deed (work) or word “good”? What is the opposite of “good”?

- Can you share of a time when you were mightily strengthened or comforted by God to do/suffer something for Him?

Prayer Topics:

- Pray that God will strengthen and comfort us and that we would each strive to strengthen and comfort one another in the Lord.

