

2 Corinthians 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation (οἱ παρακαλῶν ἡμᾶς ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ θλίψει)—Present participle parakalōn shows continuous action: God is always-comforting. Thipsis (θλίψις, "pressure/crushing") evokes grapes in a winepress—intense suffering, not mere discomfort.

That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble—the teleology of suffering: hina dynametha parakalein (ἵνα δυνώμεθα παρακαλεῖν, "that we might be able to comfort"). God's comfort isn't terminal (ending with us) but instrumental (flowing through us). Same comfort, same source (God), new recipients.

Historical Context

Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What affliction has God comforted me through that now qualifies me to comfort someone else?
2. Am I hoarding God's comfort without channeling it outward to those suffering similarly?
3. How can my community become 'wounded healers' rather than pretending to have it together?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ παρακαλούμεθα ἡμᾶς ἐπὶ πάσῃ τοῦ θλίψει ἡμῶν

Who **are comforted** **us** **in** **all** **Who** **tribulation** **our**
G3588 G3870 G2248 G1909 G3956 G3588 G2347 G2257

εἰς τοῦ δύνασθαι ἡμᾶς παρακαλούμεθα τοῦ ἐν
that **Who** **may be able** **us** **are comforted** **Who** **them which are in**
G1519 G3588 G1410 G2248 G3870 G3588 G1722

πάσῃ θλίψει διὰ τοῦ παρακλήσεως ἡς
all **tribulation** **by** **Who** **the comfort** **wherewith**
G3956 G2347 G1223 G3588 G3874 G3739

παρακαλούμεθα αὐτοὶ ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ·
are comforted **ourselves** **of** **Who** **God**
G3870 G846 G5259 G3588 G2316

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Isaiah 51:12 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

Isaiah 40:1 (References God): Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Psalms 32:7 (Parallel theme): Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

John 14:16 (Parallel theme): And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Hebrews 12:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

John 14:18 (Parallel theme): I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Isaiah 12:1 (Parallel theme): And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Isaiah 52:9 (Parallel theme): Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

Psalms 32:5 (Parallel theme): I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.