



THE COMFORTER HAS COME

by Becky Combee

Today I am reminded of a song that was popular many years ago. Although I can remember only one line, it is more than enough for this season when the bustle and hustle of Christmas commands our attention and steals our peace. This song says, "The Comforter is come."

Everyone needs comfort from time to time. A child with a raging fever needs the loving touch of his parents and the comforting reassurance that he is recovering. When the baby is crying, the television is blaring, the supper has been delayed, and the clothes are still at the cleaners, every wife and mother needs AND desires the strength and comfort of a faithful spouse. Everyone needs help!

It is a great privilege to stand beside a family member or friend with comforting words that impart strength and hope. Words of consolation that relieve mental distress can never be undervalued. But, here is the important question. Where do we find these words of reassurance? The answer is quite simple. These words are always found in the Word of the living God – the Bible. It is the only source of words that never fail.

God's eternal Word was written and inspired by His Spirit. He is the Comforter who stands with

us, clearly declaring God's Word to us. With the Word of the living God and the Spirit of God active in our lives, we are comforted. The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, continually comes to our aid to encourage us, console us, and defend us. By His divine aid, we are strengthened.

PERFECT PEACE

It is the will of God that all men enjoy perfect peace. This God-given peace is not dictated by natural circumstances, but is born in our heart when we trust in God. If we are established and maintained by God's Word, we will enjoy this supernatural peace, a peace far beyond our understanding.¹

THERE WILL BE NO ROOM FOR FEAR AND WORRY IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOD, THE COMFORTER, IS HERE TO HELP US.

The first year we travelled to Russia to teach in a Bible school, we were warned to watch out for the black ice. Because I am a Floridian, I was not sure what I was looking for, but eventually I spotted a patch of ice, dark in color. Immediately I looked to my husband Wayne for help. He was walking in front of me and when I looked up, I found him standing with his hand extended toward me. I certainly would not have noticed his extended

hand if I had keep my eyes on the black ice.

Almighty God always reaches out to us when we abide in Him. If we look to Him, we are not moved, distressed, or agitated when circumstances seem to contradict His Word. The psalmist said that God is a very present help in times of trouble.² I love the phrase, “a very present help.” There can be no greater comfort than to recognize that He is here. He is present. He is our strength and He is here, working mightily by His Spirit so that we do not waver, slip, or fall.^{3,4}

GOD IS IN US

Shortly before His death, Jesus addressed His disciples saying that God who had been WITH them would soon be IN them.⁵ He declared that God, His Father, was sending another Comforter, one like Himself. This Comforter was God, the Holy Spirit, and He would be present in them to teach them and guide them. Through His presence in their lives, they would know God’s abundant provision.

This Word from our Lord Jesus Christ is for every believer. Through our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit recreates us and comes to live IN us. He is God IN us. But, here is the most amazing news! His presence in our lives has purpose. He is not like the myth of Santa Claus, simply checking on our behavior and making a list that notes our good and bad conduct. He is working!

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Jesus said, “I will not leave you comfortless.”⁶ The New Living Translation writes, “I will not abandon you as orphans – I will come to you.” An orphan has no Father, no parental guidance or provision. Yet, when we accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, God becomes our Father. We are not orphans! We are sons of God, joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ.⁷

God lovingly cares for His sons. He opens our hearts to understand every promise in His Word. The Holy Spirit reveals these promises to us, and He is the Spirit of Wisdom and revelation in us. As we study God’s Word, He teaches us, turning on the light in our minds and hearts so that we

increase in the knowledge of God.

This God-given revelation reminds me of a man opening the curtains in a darkened room. With the curtains closed, he cannot see the brightness of the sun or the beauty of the landscape before him. But, when the curtains are opened, he sees clearly. The Holy Spirit opens the curtains that veil our mind and heart. He helps us to see our inheritance with great clarity and leads us as we walk by faith in the fullness of God’s Word.



THE GIFT OF GOD

We must embrace this precious gift of God and allow Him to work in our hearts. Without His Divine leadership, there is no revelation or understanding. Even though the Word says, “Let not your heart be troubled,”⁸ we helplessly flounder when He is not active in our lives. Our walk with God is ineffective without His strength and power.

When we honor the Holy Spirit, we honor our great and mighty God. Our heart opens to more of God, so much more, when we recognize that He dwells in us. Therefore, we must boldly declare His presence in our daily walk with God. We must look to Him as the one sent by God.

Now, joyfully, with our hands lifted to heaven, we say “The Comforter has come and He dwells IN me. The Comforter is here and He is working mightily in my life. Thank you, Father for the precious Comforter who is God the Holy Spirit.”

¹Phil 4:7 ²Ps 46:1 ³Ps 46:1,5 ⁴Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, H4131 ⁵Jn 14:17 ⁶Jn 14:18 ⁷Gal 4:6-7, Rm 8:16-17 ⁸Jn 14:27