

Psalm 119
week 2, v. 50

Where do people go for comfort when things get rough? Where do you go for comfort?

This is a familiar saying: 'when things get tough, the tough get going'. The world's view is you just have to be stronger than the problem or outlast the difficulty. Do you get comfort from that thought? Probably not, in fact, it's discouraging.

Ps 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, That Thy word has revived me.

Job 6:10 "But it is still my consolation, and I rejoice in unsparing pain, that I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

Ro 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

comfort <nechamah> consolation: comfort

To be comforted is to have consolation, finding relief in affliction; solace – moral and emotional strength

What do you think of this statement: 'he had all the material comforts of this world'? What happens when our consolation comes from people or things?

Look at the rest of Psalm 119:50. What brings comfort to David?

The affliction being talked about here comes from the word <oniy> meaning depression, misery, trouble. Let's look at the book of Job. Job is described as being "blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil" (Job 1:1). He had seven sons and three daughters (Job 1:2). He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and many servants. He is described as the greatest of all the men of the east (Job 1:3). Job was dedicated to God – he sacrificed burnt offerings continually to God in case his sons had sinned (Job 1:6).

You know the rest of the story. Job lost everything. His children, his servants, his livestock. What was his response? Blessed be the name of the Lord! What did he use for comfort? God's word. Did praising God change Job's circumstances? It gave Job a right perspective.

Eph 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Jas 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

How can we thank God or praise God when difficulty knocks on our door? What does it mean to trust God? Complete confidence and faith in God and His plan means we trust our future and the future of those we love and the entire world to Him.

If our trust is in things, in man, in our own heart, or in our own righteousness we are trusting in uncertainty.

In Psalm 119:50 David says the word has revived him.

revived <chayah> KJV says quickened; to keep or make alive, to give promise of life, to nourish up, preserve, recover, repair, restore to life, be whole

Someone who needs to be revived needs new life or energy; a new consciousness or strength; WordWeb says a person who is revived is restored from a depressed, inactive, or unused state.

How many of you have first aid kits or some kind of emergency provisions in your home or even in your car? All cars come equipped with a spare tire and jack. Most of us have bandaging supplies. Many of us may have an emergency plan in the event of disaster.

All of us, as God's children, have the most full proof, perfect, excellent, thorough disaster relief and shelter and provisions in God's word. But, it must be something we know how to use, something we are familiar with. Dusting off a bottle of ipecac syrup to find out it has expired will not do much good if your child has swallowed poison. Having the tools to bandage a wound without having the understanding or knowledge how to use them will not help you.

Job was prepared with the armor of God's word to revive him during tough times; David realized God's word was his comfort in his affliction and he used it. We should take care to be prepared during difficult circumstances by keeping God's word fresh in our hearts and minds. Then we will more readily go to the perfect source for comfort and help in times of trouble.

"hath quickened [revived] -- What the Word has already done is to faith a pledge of what it shall yet do" Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

The word of God has much in it that speaks comfort in affliction; but those only may apply it to themselves who have experienced in some measure the quickening power of the word. If through grace it make us holy, there is enough in it to make us easy, in all conditions, under all events. Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

Ps 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.

Ps 42:8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; and His song will be with me in the night, a prayer to the God of my life.

Ps 94:19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Ro 5:3-5 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Ro 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

The worldling clutches his money bag and says, "this is my comfort"; the spendthrift points to his gaiety, shouts, "this is my comfort"; the drunkard lifts his glass, and sings, "this is my comfort"; but the man whose hope comes from God feels the giving power of the word of the Lord, and he testifies, "this is my fort." Paul said, "I know whom I have believed." Comfort is desirable all times; but comfort in affliction is like a lamp in a dark place. Some unable to find comfort at such times ... have comfort and no affliction, others have affliction and no comfort; the saints have comfort in their affliction. Treasury of David

Compare worldly comforts with the comforts that come from God. Worldly comforts only reach the surface. They are not lasting. It's like putting a band aid on a deep wound that needs stitches. Comfort from God's word reaches to our

inner soul, healing us from within. Worldly comforts may take away pain for a time; Godly comfort replaces pain with joy for the future.

How has the comfort from God's word helped you specifically in times of affliction?

Ver. 50. -- Thy word hath quickened me. It made me alive when I was dead in sin; it has many a time made me lively when I was dead in duty; it has quickened me to that which is good, when I was backward and averse to it; and it has quickened me in that which is good, when I was cold and indifferent. --Matthew Henry.

Adore God's distinguishing grace, if you have felt the power and authority of the word upon your conscience; if you can say as David, "Thy word hath quickened me." Christian, bless God that he has not only given thee his word to be a rule of holiness, but his grace to be a principle of holiness. Bless God that he has not only written his word, but sealed it upon thy heart, and made it effectual. Canst thou say it is of divine inspiration, because thou hast felt it to be of lively operation? Oh free grace! That God should send out his word, and heal thee; that he should heal thee and not others! That the Same Scripture which to them is a dead letter, should be to thee a savour of life. --Thomas Watson.

How do we apply this verse?

1. recognize that we need comfort
2. recognize where true comfort is found
3. recognize the power of the living Word
4. place our complete trust in God's word – his strength, His goodness and His care for His children

Application Questions

Where does David find comfort according to Psalm 119:50?

Is it possible to find lasting comfort in the world for all difficulties? Why or why not?

Describe the difference between the peace and comfort that comes from God vs. the peace and comfort that comes from things or others.

Can you think of a time when you have tried to find solace in something other than God' s word? What did you do? Did it work?

Read Romans 15: 4. Where do we find hope? What is required of us according to this verse?

Read Eph 5: 20; 1 Thessalonians 5: 18 and Colossians 3: 17. What do each of these verses say we are to do at all times and in every situation?

What can you do to prepare for the difficulties that lie ahead of you? What is your plan?

Is there a verse you can memorize that will help? Look at Ps 28: 7; Ps 42: 8; Ps 94: 19.