



1st Corinthians is a church (people) sinful and disobedient.
2nd Corinthians is a church (people) struggling to mature.

**The God of all comfort sent us His Spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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 tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. 6 Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. 7 And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

V:1-2 Grace to sustain you and peace to keep you are from God.

Saving Grace delivers us from our sin while sustaining Grace teaches us to say no to sin.

V:3-7 Nine times, the words comfort (G3874) or consolation (G3870) are used as verbs and nouns. The true Comforter (G3875) is the Holy Spirit.

The number 9 in Hebrew means finality or human judgment on one side. On the spiritual side, the nine fruits of the Spirit bring comfort to our hearts, mind, emotions, and spirit. (Will Christians be judged by what they didn't accept?)

The Biblical meaning of comfort is much more than a soothing sympathy. Comfort is coming alongside as the Holy Spirit does in our life. To make brave in your time of need.

V:4 All that happens to us may be converted into a ministry of comfort to others. Those that have lived through drugs, alcohol, divorce, sexual brokenness, poverty, violation, and all the evils of this world are equipped by the Holy Spirit to be in the ministry of comfort. (Think outside the box; you have a rare disorder, weight, height, or any other abnormality that God has comforted you. Then learn to minister to others.) Tribulation ministry has a new insight to it; we call it comfort.

V:5-6 Our experiences enable us to be Titus men and women. Our sufferings qualify us to be spiritual comforters to others. (God will often do more with a broken man or woman than one who has not suffered.)

V:7 A guarantee of hope as partakers of the sufferings we shall also be receivers of comfort. (His Grace in our lives will lend dividends in the lives of others.)

**Stop living ignorant about your troubles or burden.*

**2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, 11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.*

12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you. 13 For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end 14 (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

V:8-9 We are resurrected people. If the rapture doesn't come before we die, we are equipped to experience resurrection and its power through salvation.

According to Paul, when you feel a death sentence, it's so they would not put too much trust in this life. Our trust is the power of the resurrection.

V:10-11 We have a Deliverer who does deliver us, who has delivered us and will continue to deliver His comfort to us in our time of need.

Our most dangerous time of jeopardy is when we are enjoying the lures of this life.
Paul understood the need of the prayers of others.

V:12-14 Conducting your life with simplicity. Notice the second ingredient is what Titus will bring to the Cretans, the truth about the power of grace and godly living.

***The faithfulness and anointing of God even when accusations come.**

**2 Corinthians 1:15 And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit—16 to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea. 17 Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No? 18 But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 23 Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. 24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.*

V:15-20 What do we do when our Yes and No are not trusted?

Explain and leave it with the explanation. They will either accept it or not.

Remind them of the seal of the Holy Spirit. It will bear witness to our confession and profession.

V:21-22 How does God establish us? His anointing and the seal of the Holy Spirit.

If others don't see it, they may not have the ability yet in their walk to know or see God's seal on you.

The guarantee is from God, not from others.

V:23-24 God is the only true witness of our soul.

We can only stand by faith through grace lest we boast about our strength.