When things just don't go right.

The God of All Comfort

Comfort in Affliction

Why me?



Why?

"He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

2 Corinthians 1:4 нсsв

This series was six years in the making.

- 1) Comfort in **recovery** from sickness
- 2) Comfort in **retrieval** from loss
- 3) Comfort in **recompense** from abuse
- 4) Comfort in **reconciliation** from offense
- 5) Comfort in **restoration** from affliction

comfort from: testimonies / 3 sisters and a friend

comfort

-

Sufferings Comforting uncomfortable Comforter Comforter Comforter Comforter temntations discomfiture disconfort trouble Comfortable affictions temptations despair calamity trials

Natural or spiritual?

DISTINCTION

Natural meaning: (dictionary)

Ease of grief; improvement of mood; restoration of well-being.

Spiritual meaning: (concordance)

to invite near, appeal for consolation; intreat exhortation, pray.

Spiritual comfort is not immediate relief.

Comfort is strength from hope.

"THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT"

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort."

2 COR 1:3-7

COMFORT

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of** all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort."

2 COR 1:3-7

CONTEXT:

AFFLICTION & SUFFERINGS

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort."

2 COR 1:3-7

The time to respond is before it occurs.

"In the multitude of my thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul."

Psalm 94:19 (KJV)

"This is my comfort in my *affliction*: for thy word hath quickened me."

Psalm 119:50 (KJV)



Comfort in SICKNESS

Recovery in the Kingdom

sickness, injury & pain

part 1: testimony of Sister Dawn

SUSTAINED IN UNBELIEVABLE ANGUISH

Dawn

- Her mother hated her from the womb; said her birth ruined her life.
- When she was two, her mother tried to drown her—saved by her aunt.
- At the age of six, her live-in uncle began exploiting her.
- When she was thirteen, she was abused by a taxi driver. [raped violently]
- She was on the street and pregnant at seventeen never knew the child.
- She married a man who tried to beat her 2nd child to death in the womb.
- Over the next decade, he broke 12 bones in her body.
- At 42, she found her mother, but, she said: "She beat me to the ground."
- She met a powerful man, George, who became her protector.

George

- George was beaten by his mother and sister in his early childhood.
- He left home at the age of six, and went to live with his grandfather.
- His grandfather turned him into a "Rum-Runner" in Brownsville, TX.
- At 15, a gang attempted to enlist him to run drugs.
- When he refused, they set his house on fire while he was asleep.
- He was burned in over 80% of his body.
- Spent a year in a hospital; 7 months lying in an oil bath; eyes sewn shut.
- He survived as a powerful loner; instinctively seeking God.
- George and Dawn met 13 years ago, and were married in 2012.

They were baptized in 2014.

Why does Sister Dawn hurt?

RELENTLESS PAIN

spring 2017

Her physical condition:

- She was born with genetic kidney disease: Focal Segmental Glomeralsclerosis.
- Being bipolar, she was put on lithium, which induced Neurogenic Diabetes Insipidus (NDI) causing chronic hyper dehydration.
- These two conditions destroyed her kidneys—converted to scar tissue and unable to function.
- In 2012, she was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure; led to depression.
- To avoid fatality, she was given two options: dialysis or transplant.
- Started on fistulas (vein artery graft) for dialysis.
- Went on dialysis, but because her veins were too weak for fistulas, they put in a catheter to her heart—very uncomfortable—painful.
- Health issues resulted in debilitating weight gain to over 300 lbs—preventing transplant.
- Seven catheter treatments induced strokes from constant clotting.
- In 2016, without precedent or explanation her kidneys suddenly started functioning again.

Yet this is Dawn's testimony...

"My knees are in pain that I cannot explain."

"I feel like one of the most blessed women on the planet."

"I am comforted by God's Word."

Do you ever question **God's justice** because of this?

"This too shall pass. The pain shall pass."

THE ANCHOR OF DAWN'S HOPE:

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God."

Job 9:25

HER FAVORITE POEM

I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.

I asked God for health that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked God for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked God for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered; I am among all people, most richly blessed.

anon.

Last Fall, Sister Dawn fell asleep in Christ.

HER LAST MESSAGE:

"No matter what you feel, God is with you. Put yourself in your master's arms. God is real.

Tim taught me the Truth. And now I can live forever."

BEFORE SHE DIED SHE WROTE THE ECCLESIA A LETTER

APRIL 26, 2017

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This letter has been long and late in coming. But I can no longer remain quiet about the mercy and power of Yahweh or the rocks will indeed cry out! I've heard it said that either we see everything as a miracle or nothing as a miracle. I see miracles. Our lives themselves are a miracle to Yahweh's ability to sustaining us simultaneously. The continued presence of the Ecclesia on earth is a miracle. **That the Truth is still being preached and people are still answering the call is a miracle.** I've been up, down, and sometimes even sideways...but my faith in Yahweh, His Ecclesia, the men He has given to lead and advise us, and especially, my Hope in the Kingdom has never wavered. One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. God's Word stands on its own and you have had the blessing to have found it. **So cherish the Truth and cherish the Ecclesia**. I wish I was there among you, in my heart I am. Keep the One Hope clearly in your sight. Our Lord's return is imminent. May we all be found worthy to enter in. Come Lord Jesus!

Sister Dawn Usack.

RECOVERY

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing."

Isaiah 35:2-6 (NKJV)

SPEAKING OF ISRAEL

"For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees."

Isaiah 66:12 (KJV)

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

Isaiah 66:13 (ESV)

Like a child quieted

"O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast; like a child quieted is my soul."

Psalms 131:1-2 (RSV)

"And when you see this, your heart will rejoice, and your bones will flourish like an herb."

Isa 66:14 (ESV)

Esther Giordano at 44

"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, 'Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

Isaiah 35:3-4 (NKJV)

Esther Giordano at 94

he healed them

"So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them." Matthew 4:24 (ESV)

every one of them

"40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them."

Luke 4:40 (ESV)

he healed them all

"And many followed him, and he healed them all." Matthew 12:15 (ESV)

Full Recovery in the Resurrection

Sown in corruption / raised in incorruption: unending existence

Sown in dishonor / raised in glory: honor and praise

Sown in weakness / raised in power: miraculous abilities

Sown in sown a natural body / raised a spiritual body: non-carnal

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

Revelation 21:4 (KJV)

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."