



Chapter One

The God of all comfort. Who comforts us in our times of tribulation.

**The Power of Sorrow and the Comfort of Forgiveness.*

**2 Corinthians 2:1 But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. 2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?*

3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. 5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe. 6 This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, 7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

V:1-3 A Spiritual leader should always set the tone on sorrow.

Sorrow has its place in all believers' maturing process and must be given as a gift through the Holy Spirit.

A good leader lifts the spirit of others. The ideal situation is followers trust the leaders.

Paul will not come to them again if they continue to express that he is untrustworthy. (The second letter was written instead of a second visit. Titus would communicate if the Corinth people received the truth of this letter before a visit would happen.)

V:4-7 The Spiritual leader must know the power and comfort of forgiveness.

A sinner must know when they sincerely repent. The believers will receive the forgiveness and comfort of God.

What does it look like to be swallowed up by sorrow? Despair and hopelessness are just a few results of sorrow.

Not forgiving the repentant is as wrong as overlooking the sin in the first place.

***Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

**Satan takes advantage of us if we are ignorant of his devices.*

**2 Corinthians 2:8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. 9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. 10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

V:8-9 Christians are tested in their abilities to grow in love.

According to Paul, we fail the test when we aren't obedient in loving others as Christ loves us.

V:10 Forgiveness gives us the advantage.

The spirit of unforgiveness will open more dangerous doors than you can imagine. They must be open for the sake of the Gospel.

***Luke 17: 3** Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

V:11 How ignorant is this generation toward Satan's devices?

Satan loves to convince sinners and believers that their situation is hopeless.

What are some of Satan's devices?

Deceit/deception: 2 Cor. 4:3-4 the god of this age blinds, making good look evil and darkness appearing to be wisdom.

Partial truths: Matthew 19:12 Trans people are in the Bible. They are a Eunuch by choice in the Bible.

Self-focus of any kind: James 3:13-18 Wisdom from the world or our enemy and the other is wisdom from above.

Prejudices: James 2:1-4 Warnings against prejudices you sit here, and others get a place of honor. Why? Prejudices!

Confusion: I Corinthians 14:33 God is not the author of confusion.

Emotions: Philippians 4:6-7 Don't be anxious over anything, but in every situation, pray and let God know.

Keeping us out of Balance: I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant (balanced) for your enemy the devil is looking to who he can devour.

*The fragrances of Truth and Christ's sacrifice.

**2 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.*

14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

V:12-14 **Fragrances of God's knowledge.** No sense remains in the memory greater than a scent.

V:14 Through us, God spreads the fragrance, the scent of His knowledge. Where? Everywhere!

V:15 **Fragrances of Jesus' life.** The essence of Jesus' life is something we all want to be drawn to.

Why not? Wrap your identity around Jesus and how He sets an aroma for life.

V:16 **The smell of death.**

The Gospel: It means salvation to those who accept our Messiah's gift of life. To those who reject it, they are rejecting life and accepting death.

V:17 **We do not corrupt the Word of God.**

The Word of God it's not for sale. It's not too bent, twisted, or manipulated.

The truth of God's Word is not culturally based. It circumvents time, human nature, and civilization.