

OBTAINING GOD'S COMFORT

Psalm 34:17-18 ... "the righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit."

In our previous devotional about obtaining God's guidance, we noted that God's guidance is only available to those who have a relationship with him. If you are a born-again believer who lives to obey and serve Christ, you can avail of God's guidance. The same condition must exist for you to obtain God's comfort. Our verse today makes it clear: the RIGHTEOUS cry out, and the Lord hears and delivers. It is not a promise for all, but for the righteous.

God's availability of comfort is found in the verse's promise to be "near to those who have a broken heart." Where it reads: "saves such as have a contrite spirit," it is referring to those who repent of their sins and seek God's pleasure and salvation. If you have lost your joy, it is most likely due to your own sins, plus your refusal to repent. Much of the sadness we experience in life is due to guilt. But, even then, our repentance earns us God's comfort.

We all hit pot-holes on the road of life from time to time that cause us to doubt, fear, worry and lose hope. It is normal and natural to sometimes experience loss, grief, or sadness. What is not normal, healthy or beneficial, is to live in such a state for very long. Born-again believers have access to God and his comfort. However, if you do not also accept his healing from your sad or grieving state, God might withdraw his comfort in exchange for more trials that will teach you to accept all that he offers you. If you are experiencing grief over a long period of time, it may be because you have accepted only God's comfort and rejected something else he is trying to give you or teach you. Sadly, some people choose to hang on to grief long after God has blessed them with the opportunity to be delivered from it.

It is also possible, as we discussed in the devotional about God's guidance, that you might reject God's comfort so you can languish in your sad or hopeless state. You may know believers who reject God's comfort from sadness, depression, discouragement or loss because they feel they deserve a broken heart. They may even enjoy their misery because it gets them added attention from friends and family. If you insist on remaining in your broken-hearted, hopeless condition, that is your choice. But do not be surprised if God allows other situations to compound your grief and sadness, because you rejected his healing.

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