



Art Ramos, Pastoral Support | October 14, 2018

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. <sup>5</sup> For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. <sup>6</sup> Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. <sup>7</sup> We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested. Hebrews 2:16–18 (NLT)

- Everything we face is **for a reason**: to receive and give **God's help and comfort**.

<sup>5</sup> I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. <sup>6</sup> Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. <sup>7</sup> Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. <sup>8</sup> So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup> I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. <sup>10</sup> When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, <sup>11</sup> so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:5–11 (NLT)

- When we forgive, it **reveals Christ's authority**.  
It also takes the enemy **out of the picture**.

<sup>3</sup> Are we beginning to praise ourselves again? Are we like others, who need to bring you letters of recommendation, or who ask you to write such letters on their behalf? Surely not! <sup>2</sup> The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. <sup>3</sup> Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3:1–3 (NLT)

- Our lives are **an open book**, not written from **personal experience** but by the **hand of God**.

<sup>3</sup> If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. <sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:8–10 (NLT)

- We can become **blinded by circumstances**. But when we are **comforted and confronted**, it opens our **eyes and hearts to the truth**.

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, obey my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. John 14:15–17 (NLT)

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