

# UNBREAKABLE *but Broken*

## BY COMFORT

2 Corinthians 1:3 – 11, 7:6 – 7 (ESV)

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## MESSAGE NOTES

*“A Chain Reaction is a chemical reaction or other process in which the products themselves promote or spread the reaction, which under certain conditions may accelerate dramatically. A series of events, each caused by the previous one.” — Oxford Languages Dictionary*

*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.*

— 2 Corinthians 1:3 – 6

### Spiritual actions that link us in the chain reaction of God’s comfort:

- **Trust** in the God of all comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3 – 4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they **comfort** me. — Psalm 23:4*

- **Share** God’s comfort

2 Corinthians 1:5

*“God’s comfort strengthens weak knees and sustains sagging spirits so that one faces the troubles of life with unbending resolve and unending assurance.” — David Garland, Bible Scholar*

2 Corinthians 1:6

- **Focus** on the unshakable hope of Christ

*Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our **comfort**.*  
— 2 Corinthians 1:7

*For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves **but on God who raises the dead**. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. **On Him we have set our hope** that He will deliver us again.*

— 2 Corinthians 1:8 – 10

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

— 2 Corinthians 4:7

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- **Pray** for people in need

*You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. — 2 Corinthians 1:11*

*But God, who **comforts** the downcast, **comforted** us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the **comfort** with which he was **comforted** by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I **rejoiced** still more. — 2 Corinthians 7:6 – 7*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How has God brought His comforting strength into your life in the past? What are some areas in life you desire to experience more of God's comfort?
- Which spiritual action (Trusting, Sharing, Focussing, Praying) are you needing to apply to your life right now in order to connect in a greater way to the "God of all comfort"?
- How does God being "the God of all mercies" connect you to the practice of repentance and confession in our relationship with Christ?
- How does the Apostle Paul's life display that God's comfort is less about simply feeling comfortable and more about strengthening our resolve and giving us courage to live for Christ?
- Read verse 11. Why is prayer part of the fuel for unleashing God's comfort in our lives and to people around us? Why do you think "giving thanks" is one of the byproducts of the chain reaction of God's comfort?
- Knowing that a complete stranger has been praying for our church family, who is someone that you can pray for who may need God's comforting strength right now?