

Clouded by the comfort of the flesh

PLEASE RECOGNIZE, we are living in a time where we are heavily and dangerously investing in fleshly comfort - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - **BUT REALIZE THIS**, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For MEN WILL BE lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous*, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. NASU

People don't realize that the lack of TRUE growth in the Church is due to the lack of accessing TRUE comfort - Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And **WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD** and **in the comfort of the Holy Spirit**, it multiplied. ESV

No matter the situation (fleshly comfortable or fleshly uncomfortable) we are created to serve God - 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? DON'T LET IT TROUBLE YOU — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the LORD'S FREEDMAN; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is CHRIST'S SLAVE. 23 **YOU WERE BOUGHT AT A PRICE;** do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, **each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.**

Christians are instructed to comfort others through God instead of catering to the flesh? - Gal 5:13-15 - 13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only DO NOT TURN YOUR FREEDOM INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, but **THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER.** 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**" 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. NASU

When we live for our "temporary comfort" we set ourselves up for "eternal discomfort" - Gal 6:8-10 - 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature WILL REAP DESTRUCTION; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit **WILL REAP ETERNAL LIFE.** 9 **Let us not become weary in doing good,** for at the proper time we will reap a harvest IF we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Do not be misled by the current results of temporary comfort's, it's the final results you MUST BE aware of - Luke 6:24-25 - 24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. (Rich man Luke 16:25)

We don't realize, when we live for our fleshly comfort, it causes an extreme discomfort - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts WHICH WAGE WAR AGAINST THE SOUL. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, SO THAT in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. NASU

God's Word shows True strength can only exist with fleshly discomfort - 2 Cor 12:7-10 - 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.**" **THEREFORE I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, SO THAT Christ's power may rest on me.** 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, **I delight in WEAKNESSES, in INSULTS, in HARDSHIPS, in PERSECUTIONS, in DIFFICULTIES.** For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Learning from Christ, we must suffer through our fleshly discomfort to truly live for the will of God - 1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 **AS A RESULT, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires,** but rather for the will of God.

The answer is; live against fleshly comfort in order to receive God's True Comfort - James 4:7-10 - 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and HE WILL LIFT YOU UP.

This is why those who mourn now are blessed - Matt 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The true comfort is from The Holy Spirit - John 14:15-16 - 15 If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and **he shall give you another Comforter,** that he may be with you forever, ASV

As we receive true comfort this will allow us to truly comfort others - 2 Cor 1:3-7 - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the **God of all comfort,** 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, **WHICH PRODUCES IN YOU patient endurance** of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that **JUST AS YOU SHARE IN OUR SUFFERINGS, SO ALSO YOU SHARE IN OUR COMFORT.**