

## Our Comforter is Here

In this world we have many sorrows and heartaches. So, most any day we can feel overwhelmed and discouraged – and praying that no more sorrows come. We hold our troubles within since we feel to talk about it won't make it go away. At times we fear what people will think or say, and at other times we wonder if we did share, would they even care or lend any level of comfort. We want someone to hear us, to comfort us, but then again, we don't. So, we go on trying to live a happy life. Since we need to feel comforted, we resort to creating our own little hiding place within ourselves, but truthfully it only becomes a prison cell. And eventually that prison cell will say, "You had better keep it all in and trust only in yourself," but God has a better plan.

You must know that when Jesus walked on earth, He comforted the suffering and sorrowed souls by healing them, raising their dead, and casting out demons to those in torment. But after Jesus performed these new and exciting things, He then tells His disciples of His soon departure from earth. And once again, the disciples were filled with sorrow. Their hearts had already felt the pain of leaving their families, facing opposition from unbelievers, and experiencing despair in the storms during their physical exhaustion, and now Jesus is leaving them? Like the disciples, we too may feel like Jesus has left us in our moments of needing comfort.

But Jesus, knowing His disciples' thoughts, said, *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you"* (John 16:7). Furthermore, He says the Comforter comes to stay. *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever"* (John 14:16). I can assure you that Jesus still hears your heart, knows your troubles, and feels every pain you have. For this reason, Jesus had to send the Holy Spirit of Comfort to you.

When in sorrows, the Comforter mourns in prayer for you (Romans 8:26-27). When you are confused, He will guide you into truth (John 16:13). When you feel dead inside and no longer want to live, the Comforter will infuse new life (2 Corinthians 3:6). You don't have to return to your prison cell to find an imitation comfort because the Holy Comforter is present. He can be trusted. Whisper to Him when you are in need, and He will help. You are not alone, and you are not so lost that you cannot be found, just ask for comfort when you are struggling. He can make you feel hugged and loved better than anyone else could ever do. He will make you feel accepted – because you are!

Dear Jesus,

I know that you are constantly thinking about them. You purposely came to earth because of their sorrows and hopelessness in life. You want them to know that you are right here. You are their Immanuel, God with us. And because you love them so, you have sent them a Comforter to help in their times of need. The Comforter has not left. He is still here to help them.

I pray for them to overcome their prison walls to experience the true Comforter. I ask that you change their sorrows into joy and their heartaches into peace. Make a breath of life come into every dead situation they face. And may their trust in you be stronger than in themselves. You are right here, right now, just for them. And I pray that they feel you overshadowing them by your immense love and desire to comfort them. Oh Comforter! Come! Overwhelm, overflow, and overfill them until they are infused with new life, new hope, and an amazing courage. Amen!

*Dr. Nina Gardner*



*International Ministries, Inc.*