

Comfort

By Kelly Koshatka

In the Gospel of John, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit's as the Comforter (Jn. 14:16). He could have been called "the Exhorter", or "the Convictor", or many other names; but one of the names God chose to describe what the Holy Spirit does was to call Him the Comforter. And what is the comfort that the Holy Spirit gives? He uplifts a Person not just to us, but in us. More than information about someone we love, we have been made one spirit with Jesus and the Holy Spirit came to make that real in us.

In times of outward problems and fears it is common to seek for some peace by resolving issues through finding answers and explanations for questions and thoughts that press at our minds. We may seek this so that our souls will be soothed and quieted. Although this may bring momentary relief, it is not true and eternal comfort. Our outward man may become temporarily quieted down, but inwardly we are still empty and unsettled and alone. Our soul has stopped crying but our spirit remains in darkness and unrest. And so the question could be asked, "Is this true comfort, or just temporary relief?" Is this the deepest and truest comfort a God Who inhabits His people would have for His own? Hasn't the mystery of our oneness with Christ provided hidden springs within to nourish and fill and comfort?

As those who are the Body of Christ, His dwelling-place; the truest comfort we could ever receive is the Lord Himself filling us. He is the end of all thing and He is the purpose of all things, and this purpose is clearly stated in Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, "*that He might fill all things*" (Eph. 4:10). Would a Bride be satisfied with a letter from her husband when she could have His Spirit filling her heart? Against such an answer, there are no comparable remedies.

But are we open to this comfort, or does our life consist of many things that carry precedence over our union with Christ? Do shadows overtake the real because of their seeming urgency in the earth-realm. Or has Christ become the end of all things, the One Who is pre-eminent, the One who is our Life when all issues are burned up as stubble. Only the Son endures forever!

Oh the wisdom of God that He would send us the Spirit of Truth to comfort us in this way, by lifting up the Risen Christ in us who is our Life and fullness. Jesus told His disciples that it is better for Him to leave so that He could send His Comforter to us. Jesus knew that a much more fulfilling relationship was ahead for them. They had known a wonderful time of relating to Jesus so closely, even walking beside Him daily. But now the Lord was going to the Cross so that a union could take place wherein He would inhabit His people, and they would be one with Him. Jesus said, "*At that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*" (Jn. 14:16)

And so, not just with the situation of comfort, but in all imaginable areas of our existence... there is so much more than we could ever fathom to receiving and knowing the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Eph. 1:18). *“And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fullness of God.”* (Eph. 3:19)***