

## **How My Affliction Becomes an Opportunity to Comfort**

Are you aware of a Christian brother or sister going through a difficult situation or affliction, one which you yourself have gone through, and found comfort and encouragement from God's provisions? Have you taken the opportunity to go to them and encourage them and share how God comforted you through your difficult situation or affliction? In his letter to the Church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul speaks to this very subject.

*2 Corinthians 1:3-7 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. If we are afflicted, it is for your encouragement and salvation; if we are encouraged, it is for your encouragement, which enables you to endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is firm, for we know that as you share in the sufferings, you also share in the encouragement." (NASB)*

Now we may not always understand why we go through difficulties in life, but according to the Apostle Paul, the comfort and encouragement provided us by God through our afflictions serve as an opportunity for us to encourage others who are struggling through a difficulty or affliction.

So instead of saying, "Why me Lord?" or becoming upset at God for allowing some difficulty or tragedy to come into our life. Maybe we should stop and consider that our affliction will become an opportunity to comfort others with the comfort and encouragement we ourselves found as we turned to God for comfort and encouragement.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement...."*