



WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

The Comforter and Helper in the Old and New Testament.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



[Learn the Bible at Home](#)

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Comforter and Helper

In the

Old and New Testament.

Topics.

- The oppressed and those with power have no comforter.
- The sinner has no comforter/helper.
- The suffering has no comforter/helper.
- The father will give you another comforter/helper.
- The world cannot receive the Spirit of truth.
- When the comforter/helper comes he will testify of Jesus.
- Jesus will send the comforter/helper.
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.
- The Holy Spirit and the Spirit of God.
- If anyone loves God, they are known by God.

OLD TESTAMENT

1

INTRODUCTION

The word comforter in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word (nacham) and from Strong's Concordance means: being comforted or having compassion and the ability to comfort oneself or comfort another who is suffering grief by showing compassion and consoling them through their sorrow. It also carries the idea of repenting and being put at ease. The three verses that use the word Comforter in the Old Testament are (Ecclesiastes 4:1) (Lamentations 1:9) (Lamentations 1:16).

ECCLESIASTES 4

THE OPPRESSED AND THOSE WITH POWER HAVE NO COMFORTER

- **Ecclesiastes 4:1:** Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power and there was no one to comfort them.

Wherever Solomon looked in the world he saw that there was oppression, injuries and violence inflicted upon the poor and the powerless. Power and might prevailed against what is right, just and fair. Solomon was no doubt grieved as he saw in the world around him, powerful individuals, rulers, governments and those in authority abusing their power by domination, violence, cruelties, repressions, excessive taxes and excessive interest on monies loaned and masters taking advantage of their workers necessity by imposing upon them for their own gain what terms they pleased. The wealthy and rich who for the love money oppressing their labourers and poor workers to increase their profit margins so they could indulge themselves in the luxuries of this world. Added to all this injustice and

grief those who were being oppressed had no one to help them and no one who could offer assistance and comfort or deliver them from their oppressors who were abusing their power. Might and power prevail against what is just, fair and right, because power is on the side of the oppressors so there is neither protection or comfort for those being oppressed.

AS IT IS IN THE NATURAL WORLD SO IT IS IN THE SPIRITUAL

Those without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and without God's grace are oppressed by the power and condemnation of the law. They have no Comforter who is able to redeem them from the power and oppression of the law and its legal right to judge them guilty because of sin and condemn them to death. In contrast to this those in Christ have a mighty Comforter who not only redeems them from the condemnation and power of the law, but also delivers them from death to eternal life. Added to this when those in the world have no human comforter they are left alone, whereas those in Christ have a divine comforter who will comfort them even in their darkest hour. This is one of the reasons Jesus is called the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25) and by extension the consolation of all who belong to his global family and why the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) is often referred to as the Helper and Comforter (John 14:16).

LAMENTATIONS 1

THE SINNER HAS NO COMFORTER/HELPER

- **Lamentations 1:9:** Her uncleanness was in her skirts; she took no thought of her future; therefore her fall is terrible; she has no comforter. "O LORD, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!"

Prophets sometimes speaks in their own person, while at other times they may speak as the voice of God or as the voice of Jerusalem. The prophet is looking upon Jerusalem and seeing her sin and the destruction and suffering expresses the following cry of misery, "O LORD, behold my affliction." He is speaking on behalf of the Jewish nation as the voice of an extremely distressed female. Jerusalem once enthroned as a princess has become a captive and a slave, because of her apostasy, rebellion and gross sins. The allusion of "Jerusalem's filthiness being in her skirts" is to a menstruous woman whose blood flows down to the hem of her garments and is then clearly seen by all. The sin of the inhabitants of Jerusalem cannot be concealed, but are now seen and manifested in all. Her shame her misery and her weeping and sorrow is as if a woman were suffering in public under such a flow of blood that it reached the end of her skirt. Jerusalem has fallen from the height of her glory into the depths of misery and disgrace, where she has no one to comfort her, and is therefore constrained to sigh in deep shame and humbleness, "O Lord, behold my affliction!" and in deep sorrow of repentance for her sins. Jerusalem because of her great apostasy came down from a very exalted estate to a very low one; from the height of honour and prosperity to the depth of distress and misery and in her darkest hour had no comforter no one to help her against her enemies and no one who showed compassion or who could prevent her ruin. The sinful transgressions of man have filled the earth with oppressions, sorrows, lamentations, sickness and death. If we allow our greatest adversary sin to have dominion over us, it is certain many other enemies will also have dominion over our lives and that we will suffer because of them. Jerusalem turned to the Lord for comfort acknowledged her sin, and prayed the Lord would look upon her case with mercy. This is the only way to make ourselves easy under our own burdens and the burdens we see around us as we live in this world dominated by the power of sin. We must turn to the Lord our Comforter and cast our cares upon him to find comfort in our burdens and endure in our faith knowing that we will be delivered from our suffering and sorrow into a new world of ever-lasting happiness and glory.

NOTE: this does not mean that the suffering of every brother and sister in the Kingdom of Christ is a result of some gross sin in their lives as some teach. Many secular and Christian people who have kind and compassionate hearts and do what is right suffer. Asaph a faithful man of God who wrote many Psalms felt that he had kept his heart clean and remained innocent all for no purpose. This is because he was suffering, while the wicked around him were prospering (Psalm 73:12-14). This Psalm takes a beautiful twist about half way through and not only set Asaph's heart at rest, but will encourage all who might be suffering or who are questioning why do many who are corrupt prosper while many of the righteous in God suffer.

THE SUFFERING HAS NO COMFORTER/HELPER

- **Lamentations 1:16:** For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed."

The prophet is looking upon Jerusalem sitting as a sorrowful widow and lonely city (v1) and speaking on her behalf as her voice. Jerusalem as the mother of Israel is overwhelmed with grief as she looks upon the suffering of her children and understands that because of her apostasy, rebellion and gross sin God her great Comforter was far from her. Here we see the destructive power of sin and rebellion against God, not only was the outward ruin of Jerusalem great in that her holy city was in ruin and the temple of God destroyed, but her inward sufferings of guilt and shame were also great in that all her children were weeping in tears of affliction and deep cries of sorrow and remorse. Jerusalem was God's Holy City a city exalted among the nations yet it was brought to great ruin this should be a great warning to us all that sin, apostasy and rebellion toward God will in its allotted time and when its cup is full will bring about destruction and ruin. Comfort comes to those in Christ in the following four ways:

1. Through brothers and sisters in Christ sharing their experiences; praying with one another, and building each other up in their faith and by behaving in a kind, tender, and loving manner toward each other and forgiving offences.
2. Through God's forgiveness, his eternal promise of eternal life in everlasting glory, the glorious hope he has set before us, his love and his grace and by his presence in times of great sorrow and suffering.
3. Through the Lord Jesus Christ our redeemer who not only calls us his friends and his brothers and sisters, but who also showed his great love for us by laying his life down to a brutal bloody and cruel death and by clothing us in his royal robes of righteousness that we might be saved apart from self-effort and the strict adherence to religious works.
4. The Holy Spirit comforts by convicting or encouraging our hearts and spirit through the words of Christ and opening our mind to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to God's abundant grace that he lavishes on all who have faith in his Son.

Through all four of these those in Christ are delivered from their sin, encouraged and strengthened in their faith and in their heart and mind and given wisdom concerning the way of God, the way of Christ and the way of salvation to eternal life and adopted as God's children into his eternal family. Whatever maybe learned from the sufferings of Jerusalem, far more can be learned from the sufferings of Christ, since Christ speaks to all of us from the cross, saying, "This is the way into my Kingdom." All must pass through the cross as our Saviour did. Jesus has shown us the way into his Father's eternal and heavenly Household, we must be prepared to travel the same road and endure in faith the hardships and troubles of this life (whatever they maybe) as Christ did looking to the joy that is set before us.

INTRODUCTION

The word comforter in the New Testament comes from the Greek word (paraketos) and from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of one being called to the aid of another or of one pleading the cause of another before a judge. In its widest sense it means a helper or assistant and refers to one who brings relief for somebody in a difficult or unpleasant situation. When used biblically it refers to the following five things:

1. Jesus exaltation at God's right hand where he acts before his heavenly Father as our High Priest, our faithful Shepherd and our Saviour.
2. The Holy Spirit (after Jesus ascension to the Father) destined to take the place of Jesus with the apostles and with all who come after them to lead them to a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christ, of the message of the cross and of the Gospel that leads to eternal life and of God's grace.
3. The divine strength given and needed to enable the apostles and believers to undergo trials, persecutions and hardships.
4. To brothers and sisters in Christ comforting and encouraging each other in their faith and in life.

There are only four verses that use the word comforter in the New Testament, they are (John 14:16) (John 14:26) (John 15:26) (John 16:7).

JOHN 14

THE FATHER WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER/HELPER

- **John 14:16-19:** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper (Comforter in KJV) to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Since the language of personification is common to the Greek language the Comforter/Helper is personified as the Spirit of truth much like wisdom is personified as a woman with children. Jesus words, the Spirit of truth dwells in you means the eleven apostles know the Good News of the Gospel and the way to the Father and eternal life even though they don't yet fully understand or realise it. Jesus knows that all that he has spoken during his three years with them will come to light when he appears to them after his death and resurrection and when the Holy Spirit (the promise of the Father) is poured out on them as recorded in Acts chapter two, immediately after this event Peter boldly stands up and clearly proclaims repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit and about three-thousand responded to his message and were water baptised and devoted themselves to fellowship and the apostles' teachings.

THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Jesus words the world cannot receive the Spirit of truth, because it neither sees him nor knows him," but you know him clearly refers to Jesus himself and to the apostles. They have literally seen him and for at least three years known him. Jesus refers to himself as the Spirit of truth because he is about to be killed and ascend to the right hand side of his heavenly

Father and then whoever knows him will only know him by the Spirit and by the words that he has spoken because his words are truth. This is why Jesus words are spoken of as being Spirit and life.

NOTE: the word truth in this context does not refer to all truth, (i.e. it is true the sun will rise in the morning and go down at night) even the unbelieving world believes this truth and the millions of other truths like it. The truth Christ is talking about is all truth concerning the way to God the Father and eternal life. The unbelieving world cannot receive this truth (referred to as the Spirit of truth) because they deny Christ and therefore reject his words which contain the only truth that leads to the Father and eternal life. It should be mentioned here that it is only while they remain in a state of unbelief that they can never receive the Spirit of truth naturally if they do repent and accept Christ as their Saviour, their spiritually blind eyes are opened and they are delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13).

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU

Jesus words, "I will not leave you as orphans" are prophetic and majestic. "Why some might wonder?" Simply this, Jesus knowing that Judas has gone to betray him and that he is about to lay down his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death tells the eleven apostles that very soon they and the world will not see him and then comforts them by saying he will not leave them as orphans, but will come to them again referring to his appearing to them after his death and resurrection as recorded in the last chapter of Johns letter (John 20:19-31) (John 21). Jesus then adds, "Because I live, you also will live," This means that because Jesus is resurrected to eternal glory, they (and by extension everyone who belongs to Christ) will also be raised to eternal life.

5

THE COMFORTER/HELPER IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **John 14:26:** But the Helper (Comforter In KJV) the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus at the Last Supper has been telling the eleven apostles' spiritual truths that those who belong to Christ today have no trouble understanding, but this is only because we are on the other side of his death and resurrection. The eleven were in confusion and Jesus being a man of wisdom and compassion understood their confusion this is the reason he says, "I have spoken to you while I am still with you," Jesus is basically saying, "I realise you do not understand, don't worry, it's OK because my heavenly Father will send the Holy Spirit and he will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you over the last three years." (God miraculously did this in Acts chapter two.

NOTICE: The Holy Spirit is personified in the same way that wisdom is personified as a woman and Jerusalem is personified as a mother with children. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and not an actual person as many believe, the Spirit is personified because it is common in the Greek language to personify things (especially things that concern human nature and human persona) this is one of the reasons it is called a romantic language, whereas we who speak English would use the word it.

For further information concerning personification, see the title:

- Personification

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

WHEN THE COMFORTER/HELPER COMES HE WILL TESTIFY OF JESUS

- **John 15:26:** But when the Helper (Comforter in KJV) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

The word helper (comforter in KJV) comes from the Greek word (parakletos) and from Strong's Concordance means an intercessor, consoler, supporter, ally, a defender, and attorney and carries the idea of one who sympathises and calms a friend. The actual fulfilment of Jesus words when the Comforter/Helper comes whom I will send to you is recorded in Acts chapter one and two. Acts chapter one begins with Jesus appearing to the eleven after his death and resurrection and ordering them not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the promise of the Father.

The promise of the Father refers to their baptism with the Holy Spirit and the power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth. Jesus after telling them many things pertaining to the Kingdom of God was taken to heaven in a cloud (Acts 1:4-10). They remained as Jesus had ordered in Jerusalem praying in an upper room together with many others including the woman who had ministered to Jesus. When the day of Pentecost arrived (Act 2:1) there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind that filled the entire house where they were sitting and divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in various languages as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:2-5). After this experience Peter boldly stood up and proclaimed the Good News of the Gospel and three thousand were baptised into the Kingdom of God. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. After this baptism in the Holy Spirit awe came upon the multitudes because the apostles were doing many wonders and signs amongst them (v42-43). As the apostles boldly proclaimed the Good News of the Gospel and people repented and received as a free gift of righteousness from God which is imputed to them (and all others who repent and believe in Christ). This gift of righteousness is imputed to them because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6

This gift of righteousness is the heavenly blessing Christ obtained for us on the cross. Men and woman by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are set free from the bondage of attaining to righteousness by works and self-effort and by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions because by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ they are translated into the glorious liberty and freedom of grace that comes through faith in Christ. The title the Holy Spirit embraces within it the following titles:

- The Helper, the Comforter and the Spirit of truth.

This is because God's word is truth and brings comfort to the mind and heart that is struggling before God with sin. The Spirit of truth is personified as the Holy Spirit sent from God to the apostles to witness about God and His eternal plan of salvation in Christ. Today we receive the same Spirit of truth through the written word of God as recorded in the Bible.

JESUS WILL SEND THE COMFORTER/HELPER AFTER HIS ASCENSION

- **John 16:6-11:** ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter in KJV) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁹And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to God who sent him, though they may not have fully understood what he meant, they did know he was saying he would die, we know this because sorrow filled their hearts (v6), but Jesus said it is to their advantage and by extension to the advantage of everyone who is seeking God that he is killed because if he is not there is no way the Comforter/Helper also called the Spirit of truth (v13) can come not only to them, but to whoever is seeking after God.

The primary purpose of the Comforter/Helper and Spirit of truth is:

- To convict the world of sin because they do not believe in Christ.
- To convict the world of righteousness because he went to his Father.
- To convict the world of judgment.

TO CONVICT THE WORLD OF SIN

The world in this context applies to the Jewish religious world then by extension to the entire world. The spiritual rulers of the Jewish world were the Pharisees scribes and priests. The death and resurrection of Jesus judged them in the sense that not only did it do away with the need to adhere to ceremonial rites; the need to keep Sabbaths; the need for the Levitical priesthood and the need for the temple, but it also took away their power and control over the people because the resurrection of Christ made the way to God open to all (Jews and Gentiles) through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God without blemish.

No-one needs a human priest to intercede for them today because Jesus has replaced all human priests. Jesus is the eternal and perfect High Priest that intercedes for the repentant sinner and all who belong to him. The world is convicted of sin by Christ because he spoke the truth and lived it, now the world is convicted by the Spirit of truth which is Christ's words we know this because Jesus himself said:

- I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).

TO CONVICT THE WORLD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Spirit of truth convicts the world of righteousness because Jesus lived the perfect life before God which no human has ever been able to do, not even God's greatest prophets could not live the life Jesus did. Jesus is the only man who ever lived out his famous Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:17-48) (Luke 6:27-38) and therefore by his very name the world is convicted since his perfectness reveals our imperfectness.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon on the Mount see, "Matthew 5" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

TO CONVICT THE WORLD OF JUDGMENT

The words to convict the world of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged, refers to the following two things:

1. To the religious rulers of Jesus generation and their religious system which demanded they adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days and the keeping of religious customs, traditions and legalistic rules to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life through self-effort.
2. To all religions, ministers and priests who teach or imply people are saved by keeping a set of rules, traditions or by self-effort. All of these have been judged and condemned by Christ's life, death and resurrection since Jesus life has clearly set the standard God requires for righteous which is a life without sin and only God's Son has ever lived such a life, which means that every human is convicted because all fall short of God's holy and perfect standard.

In this context the primary purpose of the Comforter/Helper and the Spirit of truth was to aid the apostles and by extension all who belong to Christ in witnessing. The main aim of the Spirit of truth is to reveal a person's lack of righteousness before God as they hear the words of Christ and the Gospel and convict them of their need for a Saviour to redeem and reconcile them to God.

WHEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH COMES, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH

- **John 16:12-13:** I still have many things to say to you (the eleven apostles) but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

In these verses the Comforter/Helper is now called the Spirit of truth (see v6-11above). Since the eleven apostles did not have the Good News of the Gospel and the New Covenant of grace in written form as we do today Jesus tells them that the Spirit of truth (the Spirit of Christ) will guide them into all truth as well as reveal to them future events. The Spirit of truth will glorify Christ and reveal to the eleven apostles everything that Christ has spoken during his three years with them. Today we have the exact same Spirit of truth (the Spirit of Christ) that Christ revealed to the apostles in the written word of God. It could be said today that the New Testament is the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of truth and that we receive the Spirit of truth as we read and believe the words of Christ and make the Lord the King of our heart and our mind. Jesus words, "I still have many things to say to you," most likely refers to his brutal, torturous, bloody and cruel death which of course they could not bear to hear until after the resurrection and his words, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth," refer to the following two things:

1. To himself rising from the dead and appearing to them at which time they all would have understood what he meant when he told them that he must be killed and rise the third day.
2. To the Holy Spirit being poured out on them as recorded in Acts chapter two and enlightening them to the Good News of the Gospel which Peter boldly stood up and proclaimed and three-thousand responded and were baptised (Acts 2:1-41).

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and has many personas (faces) and aspects (traits). The title given to the Spirit of God depends on the context of the role or function that the Spirit of God is to minister in if it is help the Spirit is called the Comforter/Helper, but if the context is in relationship to the right understanding of the word of God the Spirit is referred to as the Spirit of truth. The titles of the Spirit simply show the reader what function the Spirit is involved in, but it is always the same

Spirit which of course is the Spirit of God naturally it is called the Holy Spirit because God is Holy. The Holy Spirit is the primary title of God's Spirit, but it has many subtitles that express the activity or function God's Spirit is ministering in. This is the end all the Scriptures using the title, Comforter and Helper in the New Testament.

WORDS OF COMFORT

Paul wrote, "If anyone loves God, they are known by God," these words of Paul should bring tremendous comfort to every faithful brother and sister in Christ, Why, you might ask? Simply this: though the faithful deeply desire to honour God, not one of us is able to live a perfect life before God and not one of us attain to the perfect standard the law demands or the Holiness of God and not one of us are without sin (1 John 1:8-10). Added to this not one of us has perfect knowledge of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Now here is the comfort in all our lack God not only understands, but His eyes perceive the love in our hearts toward Him, and because of this love in our hearts toward Him we are favourably and graciously known by Him. This means that God's grace, mercy and kindness is toward all who have love in their hearts toward Him and toward His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Now that has to thrill the heart of all who love his Son.

SUMMARY OF THE COMFORTER/HELPER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Comforter/Helper is also called the Spirit of truth and the Holy Spirit and refers to the Spirit that after Jesus ascension to his heavenly Father came to the apostles for the following purposes:

- To bring to their minds all the things Jesus had spoken to them
- To give them a deeper knowledge of Christ and of God's grace.
- To give understanding concerning the message of the cross and the Gospel that leads to eternal life.
- To guide them into all truth and strengthen them as they proclaimed the Gospel.

9

Jesus sent the Comforter/Helper (the Spirit of truth) to the apostles so that they would not be left as orphans and to give a full understanding of Christ and of the Gospel he proclaimed. The Comforter also strengthened and enabled them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the Kingdom of God as they took Christ's message to the world as he had commissioned them to do. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) and "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life (John 6:63). This means that everything needed for salvation is in Christ and in the words, he spoke this is because his words are Spirit and life because they have the power to give eternal life to whoever believes them. The Spirit of truth that came to the apostles now comes to us as we read the Gospel and believe it. No one today needs new revelation since everything needed to reconcile us to God and save us to eternal life is contained in the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever reads the messages and words of Christ with a right heart attitude receives the same Spirit as the apostles did since the written words of the Lord are the same words of truth and life that Jesus spoke to the apostles while he was with them. It is right and proper to say that the written words of Jesus contained in the Bible today contain the spirit of truth and eternal life.

CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians today have the same Gospel that was given to the apostles by the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of truth) in the written word of God. The Scriptures reveal the messages of the Comforter/Helper (the Holy Spirit) to everyone who reads them with a right heart attitude. The same Gospel Jesus spoke to the apostles is the same Gospel the Comforter brought to the apostle's mind and the same Gospel that we read in the Bible today. The reason the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of truth are referred to as the Comforter is because contained within the Gospel message is:

- Forgiveness of sin and God's grace.
- Fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Eternal life in everlasting glory with Jesus and with God.

Whoever has Christ's Spirit dwelling within their mind and heart is comforted by the truth of Jesus words and his Gospel because whoever believes the words of Christ are:

- Saved by God's grace and mercy and not any merit of their own.
- Loved by God, because of their love and devotion to his Son.

The comfort of the Holy Spirit comes when a person perceives the wonderful truth and beautiful Gospel messages that Jesus spoke, as it is revealed to us in the Bible and being fully assured that God's grace covers the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within our fallen and corrupted body of flesh that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam, and knowing that Christ's love is always flowing toward those who love him. This does not mean that there is no supernatural element involved in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, because His word is Spirit, God is Spirit and the Holy Spirit is Spirit added to this there are thousands of testimonies of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who have during a crisis in life and times of great sorrow and suffering experienced God's supernatural presence of comfort that cannot be explained by human intellect.

FOOTNOTE

Some religious teachers proclaim that the King James Bible is the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God, but this is foolish for many reasons. The obvious one is that it is very difficult for people of our generation to read since we do not speak in the manner the King James Bible is written in. Certainly, it was the common language of that generation and is a great Bible and beautifully written, but it is not the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God. This is because it is not every individual word of the Bible that is inspired, if this was the case only those who could read the original manuscripts would be able to read the inspired word of God.

Added to this if the King James Bible is the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God the Chinese, Mexicans, the French and people from all other foreign languages would never be able to read the inspired word of God since all their Bibles are translated into a totally different language to the English language even worse than this unless we speak Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek none of us would be able to read the inspired word of God since the original Manuscripts are written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. But here is the beauty of Scripture, it is the messages the Bible that contains that is the inspired word of God, not the language or the individual words, but the messages the individual words joined together as complete sentences and paragraphs proclaim. For those who have difficulty reading the King James Bible here is the good news all well recognised modern Bibles contain the same messages as the King James Bible does. Whichever of these Bibles a person seeking God choses to read there is no doubt if their heart is right before God, they will not only

find the way to eternal life, but also the love and grace of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. A personal note: should a new seeker of God be reading this I would suggest spending time in the New Testament until the love and grace of God is discovered and the truth that Jesus accepts with open arms all who come to him with an honest and humble heart despite what the mind may be convicting or condemning those seeking him of. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Bible House of Grace