

Christian Comfort

We should thank and praise God for our abundant consolation in the gospel! Gospel comfort is a buffer between our believing souls and every trial and sorrow that threatens us in this life. Robert Haldane saw the true comfort of the gospel very clearly. Consider some of the blessed comforts he saw that God has given you as a believer in Jesus Christ. May you be able to embrace them into your heart and life by true faith, for your comfort and strength.

A believer can look upon that rich field of privilege and promise placed before him in the Bible, and can say that it is his own. And where is the want that the blessed field cannot supply, the distress which they cannot relieve, the wound that they cannot heal, the fear that they cannot quiet, or the sorrow for which they do not furnish abundant consolation? Where, then, is the cause of depression? Friend of Jesus why weepst thou? If you have an Advocate with the Father, through whom your sins are forgiven and you are made a child of God, - and the Holy Ghost is given you as your Sanctifier and Comforter, - and you are assured of having almighty power for your support, and unerring wisdom for your guide, and heaven for your eternal home, - what can overbalance or suppress the joy which naturally results from such privileges as these? Trials we may, we must, meet with; but can these depress us, when we know that our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding, even and eternal weight of glory? If tried by bodily pain, we feel more keenly the happiness of the hope which anticipates the time when we shall have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens! Worldly losses will not overwhelm us, if we know that we are undoubted heirs of an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Friends may change, but we will be comforted by the assurance that in Christ we have a brother born for adversity, - nay, a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

There rolls between us and our Father's house the deep and restless tide of this world's corruption, through which we must of necessity pass, and the deeper and still more dangerous tide of the corruption of our hearts, and we are surrounded by enemies on every side; and when we feel our own weakness, we may be ready to fear lest we should one day fall by the hand of some of them. But every distressing fear is removed, when we recollect that we shall not be tempted beyond what we are able to bear, and that, in point of fact, there is no limit to our power, for we can do all things through Christ strengthening us, and that the life that is in us is the life of Christ, a life which no power can extinguish in any one of Christ's members, any more than it can extinguish it in our glorious Head!

Robert Haldane
The Evangelical Presbyterian
Volume 16, July 2000