

COMFORTED

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Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5 NIV 84)

Two examples of mutual comfort ...

I. THE _____ COMFORT PAUL.

A. Because their faith is _____.

1 THESS 3:6a NIV84 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your **faith** and **love**.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NIV84 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

B. Because their _____ of Paul are positive.

1 THESS 3:6b NIV84 He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you **long to see us**, just as we also long to see you.

C. Because their _____ encourages Paul.

1 THESS 3:7 NIV84 Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you **because of your faith**.

1 THESS 3:8-9 NIV84 For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. 9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the **joy** we have in the presence of our God because of you?

3 JOHN 3-4 NIV84 It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

II. _____ COMFORTS THE THESSALONIANS.

A. By praying for their _____.

1 THESS 3:10 NIV84 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your **faith**.

B. By praying for their _____.

1 THESS 3:11 NIV84 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus **clear the way for us** to come to you.

C. By praying that their _____ would increase.

1 THESS 3:12 NIV84 May the Lord make your **love** increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

D. By praying that their _____ would increase.

1 THESS 3:13a NIV84 May he strengthen your hearts ...

E. By praying that their _____ would increase.

1 THESS 3:13b NIV84 ... so that you will be **blameless** and **holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

III. CONCLUSION

Q: Would Paul be comforted by your _____?