



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## OUR GOD OF COMFORT

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 40:1-31 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 3:14 | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 | John 10:11; 14:18; 15:26

### SUMMARY:

**Everyone needs comfort from time to time.**

We experience physical pain because of an injury or disease. You and I also suffer emotionally due to job loss, betrayal by a friend, the death of a loved one, and countless other reasons.

What do you do when life is hard? Most people turn to the quickest way to end their pain, even if it isn't the wisest choice. But there is only one sure answer for your heartache and difficulty—almighty God.

The prophet Isaiah preached strong messages of rebuke but also conveyed the tender heart of the Lord for His people. In Isaiah 40, he describes the character qualities of the God we serve. You and I can approach the Father with confidence that He can handle any problem we face—and desires to help us overcome it. The Lord promises to comfort us in every situation and circumstance of life.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

#### The Picture of Our Comforter

■ **Eternal:** “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isa. 40:8). People live for only a short time, and the world will one day pass away. But the Lord is everlasting—He always has existed and always will exist. This is the significance of “I AM,” the name which the Lord revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Not only is God everlasting,

but so is His Word. That's why I base my life and preaching on the Bible. Its principles are not only powerful, they are eternal.

■ **Sovereign:** “Behold, the Lord God will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him” (Isa. 40:10). At all times, He is in control of every situation. From our limited perspective, it may not look as if He is sovereign. We don't always understand His purposes for allowing difficulty and trials. However, we can turn to Him with confidence in the midst of heartache or trouble, knowing that He has the power to change everything.

■ **A Shepherd:** “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes” (Isa. 40:11). A shepherd cares for and protects his flock. When Jesus spoke about being the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), He was revealing the heart of God the Father. The Lord desires to carry us through hardship and difficulties in life.

■ **Omniscient:** “Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him? . . . The nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust” (Isa. 40:13, 15). God is transcendent—He's over and above it all. We can only see to the horizon, but He observes the entire world at once. Isaiah wrote that the Father can measure the oceans and the heavens with the palm of His hand (v. 12). His wisdom and knowledge are more than we can comprehend. There is nothing He does not

know (v. 13). You may wonder if God has forgotten about you or is unaware of your needs. But He *does* see your situation; you and I never have to inform Him about anything.

■ **Omnipotent:** “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless” (Isa. 40:22-23). We worship an all-powerful God. He controls the authorities and rulers of this earth—He sets them up and brings them down. Nothing compares to the Lord; man’s arrogance and accomplishments fail to impress Him (v. 25). He not only created all the stars, He knows them each by name (v. 26). We are foolish to turn to worldly things for comfort when we can rely upon our all-powerful God.

■ **Tireless:** “The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired” (Isa. 40:28). Humans run out of energy, but God never does. We can approach Him with the same situation over and over, and He still listens to us patiently. The Lord doesn’t always respond instantaneously to our need; sometimes He allows us to come to a point of desperation. His ultimate desire is for us to depend upon Him completely.

### The Promise of Our Comforter

■ **Strength in our weariness:** “He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power” (v. 29). God gives us energy when we feel exhausted. This passage is not saying that believers will never become physically tired. But waiting on God means persistently following His will for our lives despite the fact that some of our desires are unmet. We must trust Him to work according to His timing.

■ **Ability to soar above our sorrows and cares:** Our faith enables us to “mount up with wings like eagles” (v. 31). As these majestic birds use the wind’s energy to fly through storms,

we can rely on God to sustain us in times of heartache and difficulty. By faith, you and I have the ability to rise above our circumstances. Even when serving the Lord becomes routine or we feel unappreciated, we can have the strength to persevere. Like the eagle who sets his eye on the prey, we can stay focused on God’s purposes and calling on our lives. You and I succeed when we allow the Lord to sustain us. He gives us the capacity to keep going without losing heart.

### CONCLUSION:

What words describe the mighty God who calls Himself our Comforter? **Eternal:** He has no beginning and will never come to an end. **Sovereign:** the Lord controls all circumstances. **A Shepherd:** He nurtures and cares for us tenderly, as one who watches over a flock. **Omniscient:** God knows all things, so our circumstances never catch Him by surprise. **Omnipotent:** He has all power to help us. And **tireless:** we never have to worry that He’ll run out of energy to handle our needs.

God calls us to “mount up with wings like eagles” (v. 31)—to learn to rely on His strength in the midst of life’s storms. Have you discovered how to lean on Him? Or are you still struggling to live the Christian life in your own power? God longs to give you the ability to persevere with gladness—despite heartache and trials. Ask the Father to show you how to trust Him to work through you. Let go of the illusion that you can make it without the Lord. His awesome power is available when you learn how to rely on “the God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3). ✨



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