

COMFORT IN TIMES OF TRIBULATION

PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Just because individuals may be born and raised in darker regions of the world does not mean that they are used to the darkness, the war or the violence. People, believer and unbeliever alike, are continually traumatized by the daily threats and violence in certain dark places where GCM works. Recently, a believer living in a North African nation shared that the level of fear in his or her life was an overwhelming force.

The fear, or temptation to fear, of sharing the Gospel or being caught with a Bible can be crippling. Whether you have been raised a believer in this nation or not, there is a temptation to come under the power of fear and submit to its dark, disabling desires over you. Let us pray for the Love that casts out fear to be loosed over believers living in persecuted and dangerous places today.

"...For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort. He always comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering so that we can come alongside those who are in any painful trial..." 2 COR. 1:3-4

COMFORT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Lord gave us a special gift by sending us the Holy Spirit. When Jesus ascended back to heaven, He assured us that we would have His Spirit with us to comfort us, strengthen us and guide us. We can lean on the Holy Spirit in times of tribulation, knowing that He is with us and will help us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make His presence known to believers in dark regions, that they would feel comfort in times of pressure, lonliness and persecution.

CONFIDENCE IN HIS LOVE

In 1 John 4:18, "Perfect love casts out fear," the Greek word for "cast off" is "throw out" or "hurl." The sense we get is that God's love grabs a hold of fear and throws it out, far away from our reach. Let us pray that the confidence in God's love would be so strong that fear would be completely inaccessible.

DARKNESS DISPELLED

Why is darkness so powerful? Darkness clouds our vision so we can't see in front of us and leaves us with fear of the future, and of making wrong choices, which clouds our ability to see and hear from God. Pray with us for His light to shine in the darkness and that believers, especially the young ones, would be filled with hope, light and clarity in their minds and hearts through the love of Christ.

Scriptures to pray over us

"And I will send you the Divine Encourager from the very presence of my Father. He will come to you, the Spirit of Truth, emanating from the Father, and he will speak to you about me." **John 15:26**

"But when the truth-giving Spirit comes, he will unveil the reality of every truth within you. He won't speak his own message, but only what he hears from the Father, and he will reveal prophetically to you what is to come." **John 16:13**

"This is love: He loved us long before we loved him. It was his love, not ours. He proved it by sending his Son to be the pleasing sacrificial offering to take away our sins." 1 John 4:10

"But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!" **Romans 5:8**

"And this Living Expression is the Light that bursts through gloom—the Light that darkness could not diminish!" **John 1:5**

"For God will never give you the spirit of fear, but the Holy Spirit who gives you mighty power, love, and self-control." **2 Timothy 1:7**

*Scriptures taken from The Passion Translation