

Counseling One Another in the Body of Christ

Part 3: *Why Should Christians Counsel?*

Sunday, 11/22/09

Review from Parts 1 & 2

God's Plan A & Plan B: Self-Counsel, then Community Counsel

God called us to live Wise, Worthy, Holy, and Trained (Plan A) lives toward God, each other, the lost
If one fails A, Plan B, Family, Friends, Fellowship, and Force (of Church or State), can help him recover
God gave leaders to equip for, remind about, and model right counsel (speaking the truth in love)
God has given His people encouragement, comfort in our trials so we can encourage, comfort others

There's a Battle All Around Us

Formidable Foes v. Amazing Allies

The Devil	v.	God, His Son, and His Word
The Flesh	v.	The Holy Spirit
The World	v.	The Body of Christ

We're Warriors in the Battle

D. We wrestle against principalities, powers, spiritual forces of darkness (Eph. 6:12ff)
F. Paul "beat his body" to make it his slave (1 Cor 9:26-27)
W. Believers "Love not the world," but overcome it (1 Jn 2:15; 5:5)

We're Targets of the Battle

D. Satan is seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet 5:8)
F. Flesh sets itself against Spirit, Spirit against flesh; they oppose one another (Gal 5:16-17)
W. If the world hated Jesus, it's going to hate us (Jn 15:17-19)

We've been given Weapons for the Battle

The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph 6:17)
The weapons of our warfare are not of flesh, have divine power to destroy strongholds (2 Cor 10:3-5)
The weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left (2 Cor 6:6-7)

The Battle Tempts us All

To Grow Weary in Doing Good (Gal 6:9-10; Heb 12:3-6)

We don't get results we expect
We get punished not rewarded

To Fight Evil with Evil (Rom 12:17-21; 1 Thes 5:15; 1 Pet 3:8-9))

Fighting God's way doesn't always "win" in this battle
Too many examples of Christians fighting with evil weapons

To Shrink Back from God's Work (Acts 20:20,27; Heb. 10:38,39; 1Jn. 2:28)

When the enemy seems to overpower us
We try to "cut our losses"

To lose sight of: (Mat 5:10-11; Phil 3:13; Heb 11:13-16; 1 Pet 1:15-16; 5:9-10; 2 Pet 1:3-4; 1 Jn 3:1-9;)

God
God's promises
God's M.O. (*modus operandi*)
God's assignment for us

Restoration of Confidence (Acts 4:13-14, 29; Heb 4:15-16, 10:19-25, 35-36; 1 Jn 2:28-29)

Do not throw away your confidence in God
Do not throw away your confidence in His promises
Do not throw away your confidence in His management of His plan

Restoration of Courage (Acts 11:23-24; 15:32-32; Col 2:1-3; 1 Thes 3:1-3; Heb 3:12-14; 10:25-25)

Encourage one another to love and good works (even when it hurts)
Encourage: To put courage into, to help another be courageous

Restoration of Comfort (Mat 5:4; 2 Cor 1:3-7; Heb 12:4-7; 15:1-7)

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power

<u>Comfort - Modern</u>	v.	<u>Comfort - Old</u>
<i>Bring in solace</i>	v.	<i>Bring in fortification</i>
<i>Console</i>	v.	<i>Strength together</i>
<i>Feel better</i>	v.	<i>Do better</i>

Restoration to, Initiation to, or Continuation of, Ministry (Luk 22:33-34 ;Jn 21:12-17; Rev 2-3)

Peter: Denied 3X v. Feed my Sheep 3X
Paul: Persecuted Churches v. Planted Churches
7 Churches: I know your trials, sins, successes v. Endure, repent, stay faithful

A Note About Trials

We Must Not Confuse Different Types of Trials When Counseling: (1 Pet 4:13-16; 2 Pet 2:13)

Come to me independently of my actions (*i.e.* cancer, hurricane, war, economic downfall)
Come to me because of my inaction (no look for job, no get job; no make dinner, no eat dinner)
Come to me because of my evil words/actions (shoddy work, get fired; abuse child, lose child)
Come to me because of my good words/actions (preach truth or expose evil, get persecution)

Coming Alongside the Tried and Tempted

parakaleo; from *para* (*alongside*) and *kaleo* (*to call*):

"To call to or call for, to exhort, to encourage:"

Various English words used to translate forms of *parakaleo* in the KJV:

appeal (8), beg (3), beseeching (1), comfort (18), conciliate (1), encourage (13),
entreat (16), given (1), implore (18), plead (3), preach (1), request (1), urge (23)

abbcceegippru = to strongly speak alongside someone who needs a speaking to

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all **abbcceegippru**, who **abbcceegippru** us in all our affliction so that we will be able to **abbcceegippru** those who are in any affliction with the **abbcceegippru** with which we ourselves are **abbcceegipprued** by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our **abbcceegippru** is abundant through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your **abbcceegippru** and salvation; or if we are **abbcceegipprued**, it is for your **abbcceegippru**, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our **abbcceegippru**.
2 Cor 1:3-7