

Give Comfort to God

Not too long ago I wrote a column about giving comfort to God. It must have touched a nerve because I received a flood of letters from as far away as South Africa asking me to write more on this topic. So, with a prayer for wisdom, here goes.



Since God's love is personal, it follows that He longs to be intimate with us. That's what love means. If the mystics can speak of God's love in terms of human longing, so can we. But this love takes many forms.

Jesus compared God's love to the longing of a father whose son has run away and put his life in danger. When the son finally

returns, exhausted, hungry and broke, his father is jubilant. In this parable Jesus is telling us about the impact we have on our heavenly Father. The idea of giving comfort to God is therefore not far fetched.

Take this idea a step further and apply it to the problem of loneliness. We all experience feelings of loneliness at different times in our lives. Loneliness is a form of emotional pain which can be tenacious. But faith can move a mountain of lonely feelings.

When Jesus said, "abide in me and I will abide in you," he was promising something marvelous, his very presence. As we become more conscious of God's presence in our life, we begin to realize that in spite of our lonely feelings we are never alone. This realization can make a world of difference in how we relate to our own moods. Relief is only a moment away when you have the

right mind set.

Would it not comfort God if we turned to Him in times of loneliness? Does it not please Him to minister to our needs? In baptism we became temples of the Holy Spirit. We learned that the Kingdom of God is within us. In other words, we believe that feelings of loneliness are not facts. Even though at times we may feel discomfort, we know God's love is radiating within us.

It is always possible to claim God's love and bask in its warmth. It is always possible to laugh at ourselves and in the process give greater trust to the Lord.

Jesus Christ gave us another secret to help us triumph over the worries of this world; he gave us the promise of eternal life. In death there appears to be an ending, but faith teaches us that death is merely a passing over to a higher form of life. When we die,

life as we know it is transformed, not ended. It must please God when we free ourselves of this fear and say along with St. Paul, "O Death, where is thy sting?"

If we can use our faith to deal with the fear of death, can we not do the same with feelings of loneliness? Faith can liberate the imagination, and enable us to comprehend the wonderful truth that we are never alone. God's unchanging love is always present.

I think it comforts God greatly when we trust Him enough to sing out joyfully saying, "O Loneliness, where is thy sting."

[For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, God Delights in You, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 E. 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.]