Charles Feinberg:

The [inaudible] told the roman emperor was passing through the streets of Rome in a triumphant procession. They usually did with their slaves and their captives after them. Incidentally there was always one herald who when before with a torch and cried out "Sic Transit Glorium Mundie" [SP] Thus passes the glory of the world. Don't get too enamored of it as much as they say. And here was one of the Roman Emperors, surrounded by his attendants and soldiers, passing through Rome in a triumphant proce- it was really something to see bigger than the rose parade. A child came out of the crowd and ran toward him, and one of the soldiers quickly said get back child get back, go back he's your emperor. The little boy looked back and said he's your emperor he's my father. Yes. Incidentally that reminds me of a of a train was running through the dark and they were just going through this tunnel and ya know the people began getting quieter and quieter the thunder and lightning all over and there was something about speeding through the night and not being able to see anything and everything so dark all the people got more and more agitated. And they saw a little fellow on a seat there and he was just having a glorious time playing with some toys and so on and the like and that was more than someone could stand ya know and if your feeling bad there's no sense in somebody else feeling good ya know some folk are like that they want company. And so one of them said "LITTLE FELLA AREN'T YOU UH CONCERNED, AREN'T YOU AFRAID?" He said "No, why should I be afraid?" He said well look whats going on can't you- he said yeah but he said im not afraid,
why aren't you afraid? he says the engineer up there's my father. You see, the source of comfort, God, took a whole verse to tell it, verse three. Now look at the reality of the comfort. For real who comforteth us in all our afflictions, the world as i said is literally a sea of sorrow, of woe, of heartache, and heartbreak. You haven't experienced much if you think it’s all gonna be a bed of roses. If you, if it is there's gonna be heaps of thorns there too. How man needs comfort, real comfort.

Man enters life with the cry. I noticed somewhere, i think it was in a missionary magazine where it said Men most men enter the world with a cry. They, they live they're born crying, live complaining and die dissatisfied, [inaudible mumbling] And some folk, you know, are always objecting about something. they're born in the objective case and they don't want to be declined any other. At any rate man enters life with a cry and he leaves it with a sigh or a groan. tears fall on the soil of the earth everywhere. Tears are a universal language. they appear at the wedding as well as at the funeral. God alone knows how to comfort in all our affliction. The word comfort is found ten times, count it. It's found ten times in verses 3-7\[. Its as if i said reverently the holy spirit just salt and pepper this section. When he wants to talk about real comfort he uses a lot of words in comfort. when he wants to talk about strength, look at the first chapter of Ephesians, STRENGTHENED BY MIGHT AND SO ON. He uses every single important word in the Greek language on strength, because he's talking about strength so he uses truly strong language. And And so here its truly language of comfort. God wants to impress our hearts with the reality of this comfort. Someone defined a friend as the person who comes in when all the world has gone out. God is the friend of all others.

As Israel had light in the dwellings in Egypt, in dark surroundings, so believer now can have the light of God's comfort in his dark trial- I want to tell you that it's the kind of comfort we
lay hold on that is one of the greatest testimonies of the faith. I'll never forget it was in Newport-
man, exactly, now shoot Lauren, our daughter was about one year old, yes 1941 I was due to
speak at central bible church with Dr. Shaq Michele [SP]. [inaudible] a part of the [inaudible]
first part of the [inaudible] was Dr. Barnhaus [SP?]. and i was taken down with double
pneumonia. In uh.. i think it was rose motel, its a city of roses round up in good samar- there's a
good Samaritan, i think., in Portland. And so, um, all my dear friends comfort, comfort. Yes.
How much of comfort will you need? Israel had light and we can have light. and i remember
when they said well there's no chance there. There better be chance. I read in the Psalms and i'd
forgotten the English of it but i remember the original Hebrew of it. I will not die but live and
declare the works of God that was ’41 so the Lord has kept his promise a long time. Of the reality
of the comfort. the reality of his comfort. his comfort is real. Paul read through 1 Corinthians,
read through 2 Corinthians. Did you ever see, and I mean it, did you ever see such a catalog of
troubles as he had its just like a ship keeping its log, ya know this happened that happened and he
says in nakedness in all kinds of difficulty with false brethren many times was he in the deep and
he uh so many times beaten with 30 stripes less o
one. All notice the comfort, again and again. Dr.
Dawson would of a man who was in his congregation. he said his whole life was suddenly a line
broken off in disaster. his work was ended. his heart was broken, he was in the hospital suffering
great pain, then he said oh Dawson, this man said to his pastor, What visions of God I had as i
lay in the hospital. What a sense of eternity. while I've been lying here. the reality of things
spiritual. said he, and its an amazing statement i tell you if i knew today i could only gain such
visions of God and truth by repeating my sufferings i wold crawl on my hands and knees across
the continent to get that disease.
Isn't that an amazing thing? that's how real that can be. Yes. comfort. And its real. Because one thing that you bring over with you from Judaism is fear of death. I remember my father's younger sister. He had a younger brother and two younger sisters. he was the oldest. And when her young daughter died, in those days they called it yellow gandis. i think more particularly, correctly its hepatitis now. Young girl, she must have been in her early teens and she you woulda though she was 19 or 20\.

suddenly took a turn and died i remember it was a Friday night i saw my aunt, as they did Martha and Mary at Bethany, the Jews when they're mourning. I saw her sit on the mourning stool as they do uh practically on the ground as in Old Testament time and she actually battered her head against the wall. No comfort. No comfort. there's comfort in him, yes. so here, he would crawl across the continent. What you have here, the source of the comfort, you have the reality of the comfort and I want you to see the goal of the comfort verses 6 and 7. And whether we be afflicted for you consolation your comfort and salvation which is effective its working in the enduring of the same sufferings as we also suffered.

Whether we comforted its for your consolation and salv- you mean to tell me when you get get comforted PAUL you're gonna use it a certain way, not to brag not to boast but he says im gonna use it as a lesson learned as a methodology whereby i can bring such to your own heart. our love for you is steadfast knowing that is your particulars of the sufferings so you shall be also of the consolation. We're comforted. the goal of comfort is that we are comforted with God for a purpose. We're not meant to be an an end but an instrument. it was the great preacher [inaudible] who said the lord comforts us not to make us comfortable but to make us comforters. my dear friend Vance Havner is still in the flesh dear saint of God, he used to say i feel that my call from God is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Well the goal, the goal of
one is to comfort the afflicted. we should all seek to be true "Barnabases". Barnabas in Aramaic, in Hebrew, means barna (Son) and nabo (consolation). He was a true son of consolation. Can somebody say that. Do they say of you well if you get around so and so if you're not feeling very well that person really gives you comfort and consolation fo the lord. Ya know we always teach our students to get the bedside manner, not just come in to the dear soul, very ill and in pain and say you know i knew somebody that wasn't quite as ill as you and it didn't last very long

{Audience Laughter} That's not the bedside manner that's not what's consolation there. Trials in the life of a believer are meant as a school of sympathy. Those who suffer much and experience the comfort of God much through the holy spirit are those whose lives of usefulness [inaudible]. Think of folks who are blind, think of Martha snow Michelson. Dr. sanders once went down to San Diego and he interviewed her.

My, what a radiant life, what a radiant life. those that couldn't see, those that were afflicted, did you know that some of the work in my home city of Pittsburgh, i only knew this uh long after he had gone to the lord because i wasn't saved while he was still living. Mckonkey, James Mckonkey. they said he wrote those wonderful things of comfort and blessing and edification to the people of God when he could only write 15 minutes of the time. He had an illness [inaudible] long period and his strength wouldn't allow him more than 15 minutes. my what comfort these folks could give. full of usefulness. think of Bunyan in prison in bed ford jail and the pilgrims progress. think of Milton's blindness in paradise lost. Do you know when Beethoven gave us the greatest, most marve- it it defies things. I have almost everything he ever composed. i have his bicentennial series. you can go in Germany yet and there's a whole museum on things that he used to help his hearing and when he was stone deaf! he gave the most marvelous things. How God used it, how how that could be in a mind, Christ himself partook of
man's afflictions to comfort us. Man in all of our afflictions. he was tested, tempted in all ways such as we are yet without sin. All my friends have you ever thanked God in the hour of deepest trial that he was fashioning you as a choice vessel or instrument to bring comfort and consolation to troubled, weary souls. i tell you when our church, church here usually begins in the fall, this month. My if you'd been young as Mr. and Mrs. comforter, of Barnabas and Mr. Barnabas and Mrs. Barnabas. you see afflictions are a school of discipline, equipped for the ministry of consolation. nobody practices, as a spiritual doctrine, i meant it, [inaudible] has become a patient cured by God, yes. they're not only comforted for our joy and peace but for our usefulness, to show the world the source of comfort, to magnify the faithfulness of God in giving comfort.

To point to point then to the same source we can be better comforters than Job's comforters. Instead of pouring in a bottle of [inaudible] vitriol in carbolic acid, our afflictions can be a blessing to others. its a long widowed woman who can comfort the recently widowed. It's the mother with the precious little one in heaven who can comfort the broken hearted mother who has a baby's dear little body just before her. It's the ones who was a tremendous athlete who now broken in body through some dread disease or accident that can comfort the one now physically handicapped. someone has beautifully put it this way. All give thine own sweet rest to be that i may speak, this is one of our hymns, that i may speak with soothing power a word in season as from thee. to every ones in needed hour. the golden of God's Comfort is the comfort of others by us. A number of years, when i was in Dallas, i would hear every Lord's day, especially in the evening with my wife to the first baptist church o hear that great saint fo God Dr. Gerge w. for Washington. his name was was George washing. Dr. George washing troy. and what a power he had. he spoke on the capital steps in Washington at uh thee uh centennial i guess if was of Spurgeon. it was Dr. troy in one of his messages who told of a fire in large city, it was one of
those big ones. the firemen flung their ladders together. they didn't have quite those that look like cranes now but in those days they flung their ladders together went up i their brave way to the topmost story to rescue the people in their peril. on afternoon they brought down, at great risk to the firemen all have been rescued the said to the chief down there that's what is seemed. no, someone looked up and said i see a white face at an upper window and they said well then we can't eave. they wrapped something around one of the crew, fire crew and he brushed through the ways and went again that window. he put the rope around the little dear woman and started down, but he had been working and there was a lot of tension.

I had a fire four times on the lord's day when i was in seminary Dr. Walward [SP] and i and some of the others we knew they couldn't go to church if they wanted to they had to be there for fire calls. we used to teach the word of God. John's gospel and Romans, i remember we went through four times on a lord's day two different stations and these firemen think they say that in just a manner to second there whole life come before, well its very taxing, its not just something to get used to and when they see the destruction of life as well as property well here hes coming down with this her little woman well ordinarily he could carry here with one hand but they saw him tremble as the fire raged around him and looked as if he was gonna fall with that precious burden. and then the fire chief didn't yell to him he said to the men he said CHEER HIM BOYS! CHEER HIM BOYS! and they cheered him, cheer after cheer you know what happened? Heart came back and he came down with that precious life saved and God means for your day to be a means of cheer and comfort to a needy world. that's a beautiful word in Isaiah.

This year that i'm on sebatic I'm working on some manuscripts and one of them is Isaiah. Isaiah. And in Isaiah we read these word. they helped everyone his neighbor and everyone said to is brother be of good courage. be of good courage. May we ever realize the source of all
comfort and the reality of God's comfort also that we may be the channel of his comfort to others. What's life all about after all that's it. that's it. to make use of God for blessing others. Why do you think people leave home and loved ones and go off to benighted areas to touch the last of the least of the lost. Because there's a higher motivation. What was it? The translator to dream into this wonderful center for the work of God, the winning of souls, the strengthening of souls, the sending out of souls. I don't think ever a record has been kept it ought to be written up sometime of how many places like this an I think of Kesic [SP] and i think of Winona [SP] and I think of the Furs I think of so many along the coast here and other areas how many have gone to the ends of the earth because they got a vision here and how those have become true comforters, true stalwart ones for the Lord. Because they caught a new vision, they caught a new GLEAM! of what God would have for them. I love it.

That Lord bless you. This labor day weekend, lets be laborers for God, coal laborers, workers together with God. and we do ask men now and women behold now is the accepted time behold now is the day of salvation. He who knew no sin, God made to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in him. all we like sheep have gone astray we turned everyone to his own way and the lord caused to fall upon him the iniquity of us all. He did it all so all we need to do is believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. You say that's quite easy. for us, but what about him. He purchased it. all we do is take it. Our father, how we thank thee for these sacred grounds there's something special something that ministers to us every time we have this unique fellowship there's no, there's no saneness about the areas where they word is preached. the holy spirit is the great God of variety. even service after service here isn't the same. That's why we want to be careful, not to be found as obstacles or penance to the
wonderful effective work of that great blessed of the spirit of God who indwells every believing heart.

Bless the conference as we have prayed so many times, bless these deer ones whose minds and hearts are concerned for the comfort for the folk who come, and above all for spiritual under-girding and strengthening and fortifying. Equipping of the Saints for ministry. Thank thee for these who have ministered to us so beautifully, in the ministry of music. thank thee that they've not taken time, waste our time with that which will pass away but all the ministry of music to praise thee. what a place heave's gonna be when when then thousand times then thousand and thousands and thousands we're gonna be able to sing a marvelous [inaudible] chorus on all the verses and without cessation. Worthy is the lamb to receive every dominion, power, blessing, and adoration. Bless those who have the oversight and bless those that are in the so called menial task, there is no menial task when it's done as unto our Lord. Bless every home here represented, every Godly pastor whose people are represented here Watch over these grounds. may thy protection be so real here as the Shicana [SP] glory dwelt of old and reality upon the tabernacle upon the temple and in the body of our Lord Jesus, he tabernacled among us. With the heaven's glories of the only begotten of the father full of grace and truth blessed be his name we pray with thanksgiving in his prevailing name amen.