

## Daily Devotional, September 10, 2021 Comfort for the Faint of Heart

***“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)***

I remember well the events of that morning, 20 years ago. It started out like any other workday. Laura and I were at home, as I was getting ready for work. I remember hearing the commentator on TV say, “We are not sure what has happened. A plane has apparently flown through one of the World Trade Towers.” Our lives were changed that morning. 2,996 lives were lost and just over 6,000 people were wounded in the terrorist attacks on New York, Washington D.C., and in those four airplanes, one of which crashed in a Pennsylvania field. It was a devastatingly sad day that forever changed history.

It has been 20 years since those attacks and they are just as sad, today, as they were then. Thankfully, we have not seen anything like those devastating and violent acts since that day. However, I have heard a variation. It seems like every time a natural disaster or other significant event takes place, many jump to the conclusion that God is somehow punishing people.

In each of these events, I have witnessed God at work. God has not been at work punishing His people. God has been at work offering mercy, comfort, and peace. As the Apostle Paul wrote so long ago, God is, “The Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

September 11 is a day when we remember those tragic events that took place. It is also a day for us to look back and remember that God was offering peace and hope to so many. In the past 20 years, I have grown in my confidence that God is not a god of punishment, but that God’s character is that of mercy, love and comfort. For these gifts of God, I join the Apostle Paul in offering my praise and blessing to God, our Father, who has given us hope in the midst of affliction and strength to live life with courage and peace.

**Prayer: We come remembering those who lost their lives in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants who demonstrated the greatest love of all by laying down their lives for friends and strangers alike. We commit their souls to Your eternal care and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity. We come remembering and we come in hope, not in ourselves, but in You. As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken, we are reminded of the illusion of security. In commemorating this tragedy, we give You thanks for Your presence in our time of need. and we seek to worship You in Spirit and in truth, our guide and our guardian. Amen.**