

1 Thess. 4:18... Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Strong's 3870... "comfort"

"to call near"

invite

consolation

be of good comfort

Roots... Related to:

From beside

In the vicinity or proximity of

Friend

To bid or call forth.

To urge on.

To incite by word.

The immediate context of 1 Thess. 4:18 is the second coming of our Lord. Paul tells us that as Christians we can take great comfort from the promise of Christ's second coming.

Some of the other meanings... "to call near", "to be in the vicinity or proximity of", speak to us of the need to comfort one another by being with one another.

When tragedy strikes we often suffer from talking too much. Often we make the sorrow worse as we say things that wound and hurt. Often the best thing we can do is to be with our grieving brother / sister...

...simply holding a hand, listening or just being silent.

Many of you have heard the story of Rose. She received the call telling her the love of her life had been tragically taken from her. She came to our ministry trailer. Through her tears she called me asking, "Chaplain, are you coming to the trailer today?"

Praise God, I was next door. I found her weeping uncontrollably.

I sat with her, prayed with her and listened to her.

She was so comforted, because God had arranged for me to be with her.

The apostle Paul tells us we serve the God of all comfort.

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction.

We know that no one can comfort someone who has lost a child like someone who has already lost a child.

Let's accept God's sovereign troubles which He sends into our lives and use them as comfort to those He puts into our pathway.

Let's remember that often times less is more when it comes to comforting grieving people. Let's be comforters to one another.