



Are You Comfortable?

by Christy Morris

My family tells me that I am hard to buy presents for. It's because I don't tell them what I want. If I tell them what I want, then I've done the thinking for them. You know what they say, "It's the thought that counts." This past Christmas they did a great job buying gifts for me. I received some really cozy boots, a very snuggly throw blanket and a warm and toasty scarf. All of those gifts are perfect for me. So comforting. It made me think how we love to be comfortable.

When I get that cup of coffee and curl up with a good book...comfort.

When I make an appointment for a nice massage or pedicure...comfort.

When I plan that romantic getaway vacation...comfort.

I don't think being comfortable is a bad thing. Obviously it is something that I seek out and try to achieve. But I have to stop and wonder...**Am I so comfortable in my life that I am missing out on what God wants me to experience?**

Stay with me for a minute. I'm not talking about the kind of comfort that God gives. God provides comfort in the most uncomfortable situations. In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, the word says, "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 have received from God."

I'm talking about the idea that if I am so comfortable in my day to day and my life is wrapped up in a nice neat comfortable package, how much am I really relying on my Savior?

When you look at Jesus' life on earth, he was not interested in staying comfortable for the kingdom of God. All throughout the Gospels we read that Jesus was willing to go, serve and teach when and where God desired.

(Mark 3:7-11, Mark 2:1-2, Matt 4:23-25, Luke 10:38-39, Luke 5:1-11)

The people that Jesus associated with were not always people that would make you feel comfortable. They were sick, blind, beggars, outcasts, enemies, adulterers.

(Mark 5:25-34, John 8:1-11, Mark 10:46, Acts 9:1-9, Luke 17:11-19)

Comfort or no comfort...Jesus was obedient to his Father.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." Ephesians 5:1-2.

Paul encourages us to be like Christ and he shows us the kind of sacrifice we are to make of ourselves. In the book, *So You Want to Be Like Christ?* by Charles Swindoll, he states, "to sacrifice is to give up something for the sake of something else that is much better."

Hmmm...God has such great things in store for me. Am I willing to sacrifice myself to experience what that may be? I want to say yes. But am I really saying yes? Am I ready to take that next step out of my comfort zone? Every day is a new day. God's mercies are new every morning. Don't let your patterns of the past define your future.

Reflect and Respond

- 1) Am I "too comfortable" in my journey with the Lord?
- 2) Am I afraid to step out of my comfort zone? What would that look like for me?
- 3) Read Proverbs 3:5-6, what is God saying to you?

Pray:

"Lord, today let me see You when You are moving and hear You when You are speaking. Heighten my spiritual sensitivities to notice Your activity around me, to me, and through me to others. May Your presence become so evident this day that I am steered clear of mistakes that I would most assuredly make if left to my own natural tendencies. Give me, dear Lord, a consciousness, an awareness of You everywhere and anywhere I may go."

-Priscilla Shirer

Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed



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