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¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15 (NASB)

Chasing a Counterfeit Comfort

1. Reveals spiritual _____.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, ...¹⁵ ... that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14a, 15b (NIV11)

2. Eliminates our need for _____.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (NIV11)

- You cannot pursue _____ and walk by faith

Embrace the Authentic

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NIV11)

- Embrace divine _____.

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4 (NASB)

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5 (NIV11)

- Embrace that this isn't your _____.

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Romans 8:18-19 (NLT2)

- Trying to fulfill an _____ longing with temporary comfort will lead to an _____ life.

²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Matthew 16:25 (NLT2)

⁹ That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT2)

My Next Step Is To...

- Memorize and/or meditate on 2 Corinthians 1:5
- Embrace authentic comfort found in Christ rather than the feeling comforts of the world.
- Be a person who reaches out to others who are in need of comfort.
- Stop believing the deceiver and invite Jesus to have full control of my life.