

Thursday 4th February 2021

*Ps.34,18: "The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

*2Cor.1,5: "Just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ."*

The person who hears and believes this most is the person who most perseveres in hope and in love for the Lord's sake. This is why it is a true aspect of our faith.

But it rests on the Word's say-so, for without it the flesh would not conclude from broken-heartedness and a crushed spirit that the Lord is close! And this Word is never clearer than in Christ on the cross – where the experience of total God-forsakenness by Christ led to his vindication and to man's reconciliation with God.

We are not promised that by following Christ we will not experience being crushed in spirit and be broken-hearted, because his was a love that didn't seek his own nor sided with what is wrong. Such love must be strong in weakness and victorious in suffering. But we are given comfort and strength in him – and always it is close by.

Lord, help us to learn that your grace is made perfect in weakness. Amen