

HANDLING OPPOSITION TO YOUR FAITH

Evans Sabwami

THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

Are you ready to give up for Jesus?

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions." Luke 14:26-35

"Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right WILL have trouble from others." 2 Timothy 3:12 (CEV)

"When the world hates you, remember it hated me first. The world would love you if you belonged to it, but you don't. I chose you out of the world. That's why the world will hate you. No servant is ever greater than his master, so since they persecuted me, they will persecute you too." John 15:18-20

"If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others." 1 Peter 4:14 (Mes)

"These troubles will prove that your faith is genuine. Just as gold is purified by fire and heat, so your faith, which is far more precious than gold, must also be purified by fire so it may endure. Then you'll receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." 1 Peter 1:7

"God BLESSES those who are persecuted because they live for God: the Kingdom of Heaven will be theirs! You will be blessed WHEN people insult you, and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you BECAUSE OF ME. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:10-12

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FACE PERSECUTION

1. \_\_\_\_\_

“Dear friends, don’t be surprised or shocked when you go through painful trials that are like walking through fire, as though something unusual is happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12 (CEV/TEV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

“If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it, so don’t be afraid and don’t worry! Instead, worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.” 1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

“It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Instead, thank God for the privilege of being called by his name!” 1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

“Take a firm stand against Satan and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.” 1 Peter 5:9 (NLT)

“Remember, it is better to suffer for doing God’s will than to suffer for doing evil.” 1 Peter 3:17

4. \_\_\_\_\_

“We’re not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly realm . . .” Ephesians 6:12 (TEV)

“Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble. God’s servants must never quarrel. (Instead) be kind to everyone . . . and be patient. Be humble when you correct people who oppose you . . . they’ve been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape.” 2 Timothy 2:23-26 (CEV)

5. \_\_\_\_\_

“Never pay back evil with more evil . . . If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. And never avenge yourself. Leave that to God, who has said, ‘I’ll be the judge and I’ll take care of it.’” Romans 12:17-19

"Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." 1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)

6. \_\_\_\_\_

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 (ESV)

Jesus: "LOVE your enemies! DO GOOD to those who hate you. BLESS those who curse you. PRAY for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek."  
Luke 6:27b-29a (NLT)

7. Commit yourself to God

'So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.' 1 Pet 4:19 NIV

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.