



Sermon Series: Facing Our Fears, Part 3

Sermon Title: Fear of Persecution

Speaker/ Date: Cameron Baker, May 23, 2021

1 Peter 4:12-14

In our scripture, the apostle Peter is writing to believers in Jesus, those living outside of Israel who have been experiencing persecution in the forms of slander, riots, local police action, and social ostracism. **1 Peter 4.12-14**

If you look carefully at this passage and others, you will be challenged to...

BIG IDEA: Believe in Persecution is a promised benefit for believers.

Benefit #1 Persecution is: **A true promise of God**

Christians of all ages love the promises of God, but persecution? - a promise?!? (yes indeed)

There is no question in Peter's mind - persecution is coming, it should not be surprising and we should not look at it as if it is out of the ordinary. **1 Peter 4.12-14, 2 Timothy 3.12** . If you are living a life in Jesus, YOU WILL BE persecuted.

In the scriptures, persecution is a very broad term- and can be anything from a need to flee, or to endure some thing, or it can mean to be pursued, to be followed, to be hated, or to be killed.

Benefit #2 Persecution is- **A Mark of faithfulness for followers of Jesus**

Jesus said:

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. John 15.18

There is a direct correlation between your **demonstrated faith** in Christ, the influence of non-believers you are in contact with and the rate of persecution you will endure.

When you live your faith out-loud, others will notice. The more nonbelievers you are exposed to the greater the chance to shine your faith, share your faith, knowing. Persecution is a certification of a believers Christ-like actions in an ungodly world.

Persecution will be like a God-promised seal of approval on your living your faith in and through the spirit of Jesus!

Benefit #3? Persecution is- [A Blessing for you and others](#)

[1 Peter 4:14](#)

Persecution is a blessing, because it is a purifying agent [Romans 5:3-5](#)

When persecution comes it forces a believer to desire more of the Holy Spirit. We NEVER go through Persecution alone - Father sees us and the Holy Spirit keeps us! As we are purified, we are also strengthened.

[1 Corinthians 12:10](#)

Persecution is a blessing because it's a source of Joy [Matthew 5:10-11](#)

Persecution is a blessing to help spread the Good News of Jesus

In Paul's life, he knows every persecution he endured was to push the good news of Jesus further and further to the people of the world. [Philippians 1:12](#)

Overcoming a fear of persecution - all comes down to this question:

How deep is your relationship with Jesus?

The deeper your relationship and understanding, the less you will fear persecution and the more you will embrace

[Romans 8:35](#)

[Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.](#)

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- In John 15.18 Jesus said *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you”* Why does the world hate Jesus so much. Should we expect to be treated any differently than Him?
- Are you at a place in your faith where being harassed for your faith in Jesus - brings you Joy? If not- why not?
- Would you rather deny Jesus or suffer some persecution because you claim Him out loud?
- When have you/ how often do you experience persecution for being a christian?
- What is the proper response to someone who is persecuting you?
- Share a story about how someone’s response to his/her persecution was inspiring to you.

BIBLE VERSES

1 Peter 4.12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

2 Timothy 3.12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you

Romans 5:3-5 "...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. "

Matthew 5:10-11 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.