

Different

Different Perspective in Persecution

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

*12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, **you are blessed**, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, **he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. 1 Peter 4:12-13 NASB*****

*“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first ... If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. **John 15:18, 20***

Key Points: 5 Responses to Suffering

1. Don't be surprised
2. Keep on rejoicing
3. Recognized God's blessing
4. Don't be ashamed (Worship Unashamedly)
5. Entrust your souls

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What are some silly things you've called persecution?
- How are you tempted look at suffering as a result of sin and call it suffering for Jesus?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Pastor Dre said, “Don't worry when you're persecuted for your faith, worry when you're not.” How does this make you feel? Explain.
- Read John 15:18-20. How are Jesus' words different from your perspective of life?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you experienced any level of persecution for your faith? Is there anything you wish you did differently?
- What would change about your life if you began to expect persecution as a part of following Christ?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, forgive us for all the time we've spent seeking comfort instead of boldly seeking You. You are all we need. Thank You for Your constant grace. We give our worries and cares to You. Amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Pick one of your biggest worries and ask God daily for His help. Then, trust Him to care for you in this way.
- Set a regular reminder for yourself to live out the bold cycle, not the comfort cycle.

Normal Cycle

Pursue Comfort - Avoid Opposition - Faith Weakens - Life's Empty

Different Cycle

Live Boldly - Face Opposition - Faith Strengthens - Closer to Christ

Dinner Discussion.

- Are you willing to suffer so that Jesus could be glorified?
- How did Peter himself fail this trial when Jesus was being imprisoned?

Don't let the conversation stop in City Groups. Keep talking it over online.
Facebook: facebook.com/movementchurch