CONVICTIONS

ROMANS 8:35, 38-39 (AMP)

"Who shall ever separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... ³⁸ For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us From the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

THOSE WHOM DIED FOR THEIR "CONVICTIONS":

1) STEVEN

ACTS 7:59-60

"And <u>they stoned Stephen, calling upon God</u>, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.

And when he had said this, he <u>fell asleep</u>."

2) SOME LISTED IN HEBREWS CHAPTER 11

HEBREWS 11:37-39 (AMP)

"They were stoned [to death], they were sawn in two, they were lured with tempting offers [to renounce their faith], they were put to death by the sword; they went about wrapped in the skins of sheep and goats, utterly destitute, oppressed, cruelly treated 38 (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and [living in] caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all of these, though they gained [divine] approval through their faith, did not receive [the fulfillment of] what was promised."

3) THE APOSTLES

JMATTHEW 24:9-10 (NLT)

"...You will be <u>arrested</u>, <u>persecuted</u>, and <u>killed</u>.

You will be <u>hated all over the world because you are My followers</u>.

¹⁰ And many will turn away from Me and betray and hate each other."

JOHN 16:1-2 (NLT)

"...I have told you these things <u>so that you won't abandon your faith</u>.

² For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God."

4) JESUS

JOHN 10:17b-18a (NLT)

"...<u>I sacrifice My life</u> so I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one can take My life from Me.

<u>I sacrifice it voluntarily</u>."

LUKE 9:22-24 (AMP)...

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected [as the Messiah] by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be put to death, and on the third day be raised up [from death to life]. 23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me].

24 For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake, he is the one who will save it [from the consequences of sin and separation from God]."

ROMANS 8:35, 38-39 (AMP)

"Who shall ever separate us from the love of Christ? Will <u>tribulation</u>, or <u>distress</u>, or <u>persecution</u>, or <u>famine</u>, or <u>nakedness</u>, or <u>danger</u>, or <u>sword?</u>... ³⁸ For I am <u>convinced</u> [and continue to be <u>convinced</u>—beyond any doubt] that neither <u>death</u>, nor <u>life</u>, nor <u>angels</u>, nor <u>principalities</u>, nor <u>things present and threatening</u>, nor <u>things to come</u>, nor <u>powers</u>, ³⁹ nor <u>height</u>, nor <u>depth</u>, nor <u>any other created thing</u>, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

MATTHEW 16:13-18

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying,

<u>Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?</u> ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that Thou art John
the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them,
<u>But whom say ye that I am?</u> ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, <u>Thou art the Christ</u>,
<u>the Son of the living God</u>. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon
Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art <u>Peter (Petros/little rock)</u>, and upon this <u>rock (Petra)</u>
I will build My church; and the gates of shall not prevail against it."

PROPER CONVICTIONS ARE DEVELOPED THROUGH:

- 1) A Lifestyle of... PRAYER & FASTING.
- 2) A Lifestyle of ... BIBLE CONSUPTION.
- 3) A Lifestyle of ... <u>HOLY GHOST GUIDANCE</u>.
- 4) A Lifestyle of ... <u>TEACHABLENESS</u>.