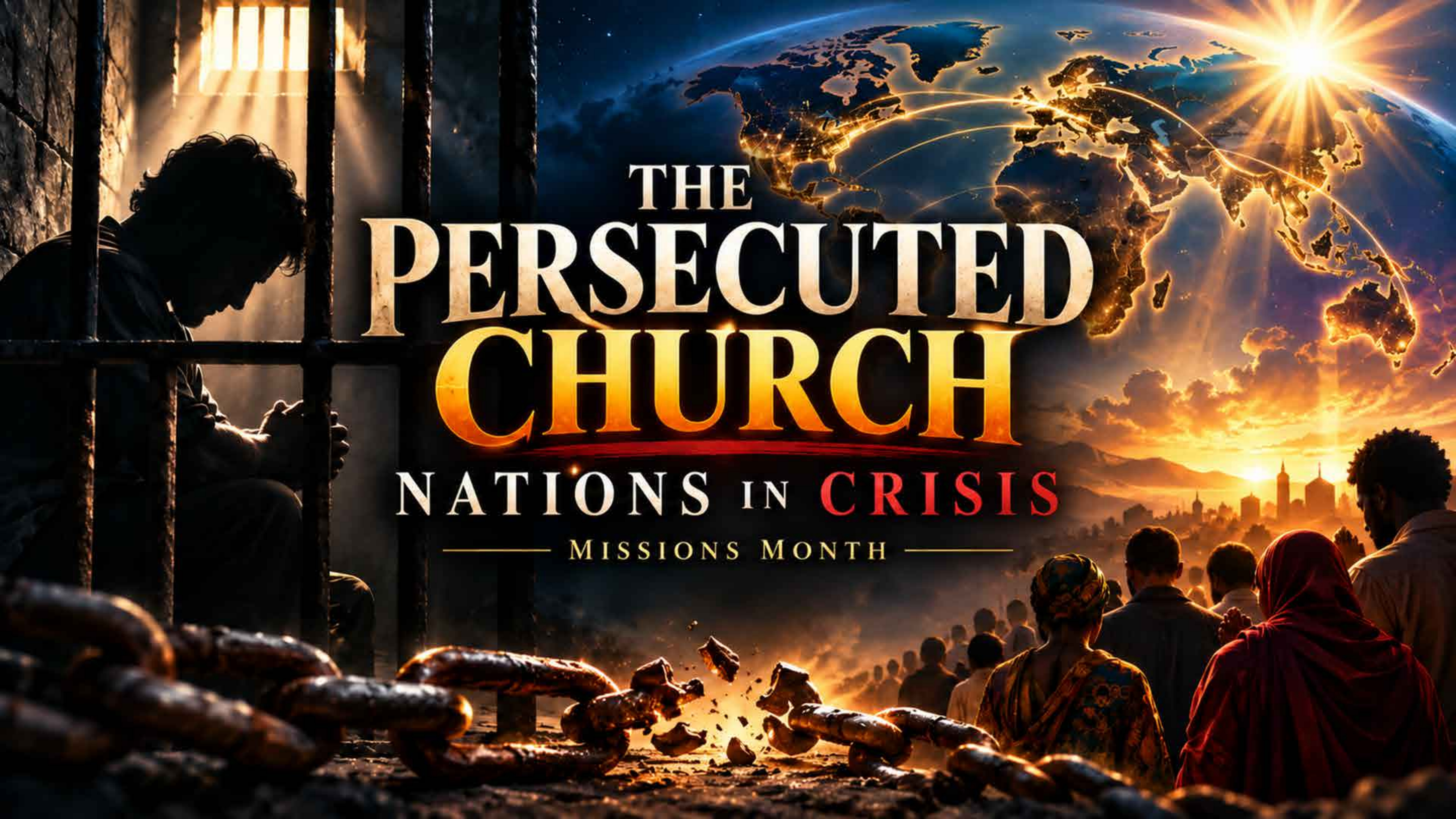




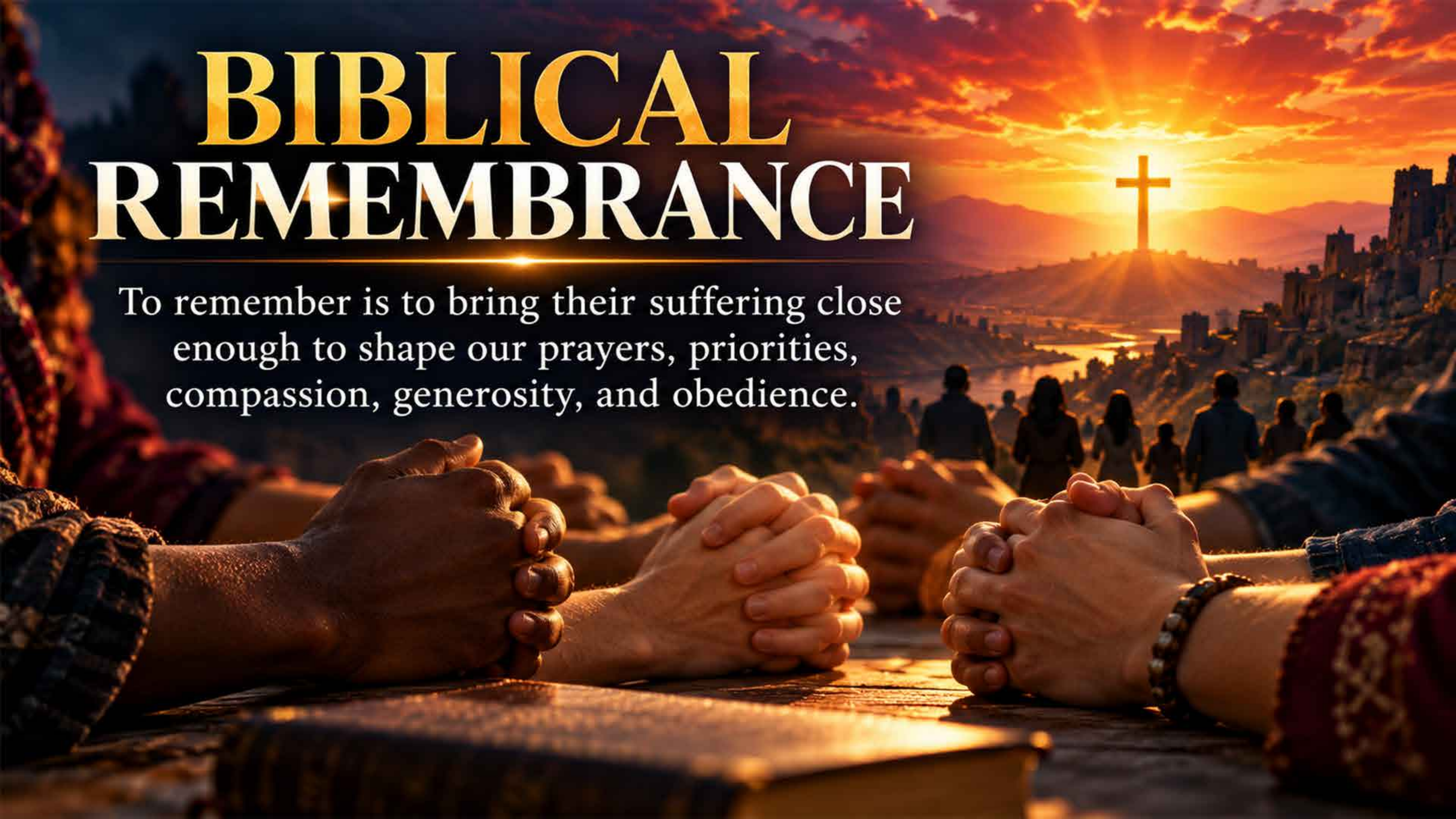
THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

NATIONS IN CRISIS

— MISSIONS MONTH —

BIBLICAL REMEMBRANCE

To remember is to bring their suffering close enough to shape our prayers, priorities, compassion, generosity, and obedience.





ONE BODY IN CHRIST

When one member suffers, we all suffer together.



The Church of Jesus Christ is not united by geography, culture, politics, or personal preferences.

We are united by the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?

1. Expect Persecution in Some Form.

2 Timothy 3:12

“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

John 15:18

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”



ASK YOURSELF:

1

If following Jesus became more costly, **would I continue following Him?**

2

If obedience cost me popularity, **would Jesus still be enough?**

3

If biblical truth made me unpopular, **would I remain faithful?**

4

If I had to choose between acceptance and obedience, **which would I choose?**



How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?

2. Thank God in All Things

— 1 Thessalonians 5:18 —

“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you
in Christ Jesus.”



How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?

3. Pray for Peace and Open Doors.



1 Timothy 2:1–2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?

4. Advance the Kingdom of God.

Acts 8:4

“Those who had been scattered preached the word **wherever they went.**”



WE ARE A CHURCH ON THE MOVE!



We advance through the Gospel.



We advance through prayer.



We advance through sacrificial love.



We advance by serving the poor.



We advance by caring for the prisoner.



We advance by forgiving our enemies.



We advance by casting out darkness in the name of Jesus.



We advance by demonstrating the character of Christ.

“I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?

5. Follow the Shepherd at **Any Cost.**

— John 10:11 —

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep.”



How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?

A woman wearing a red headscarf and a brown robe is shown in profile, reaching out with her hands clasped to touch the metal bars of a prison. Behind the bars, a man with a beard and dark hair is looking up at her. The scene is set in a prison with stone walls and a barred window in the background. In the upper right corner, there is a bright, glowing light source, possibly a window or a religious icon, which casts a warm, golden light across the scene. The overall mood is one of compassion and hope.

6. Serve the Prisoner; Serve Christ.

— Matthew 25:36 —

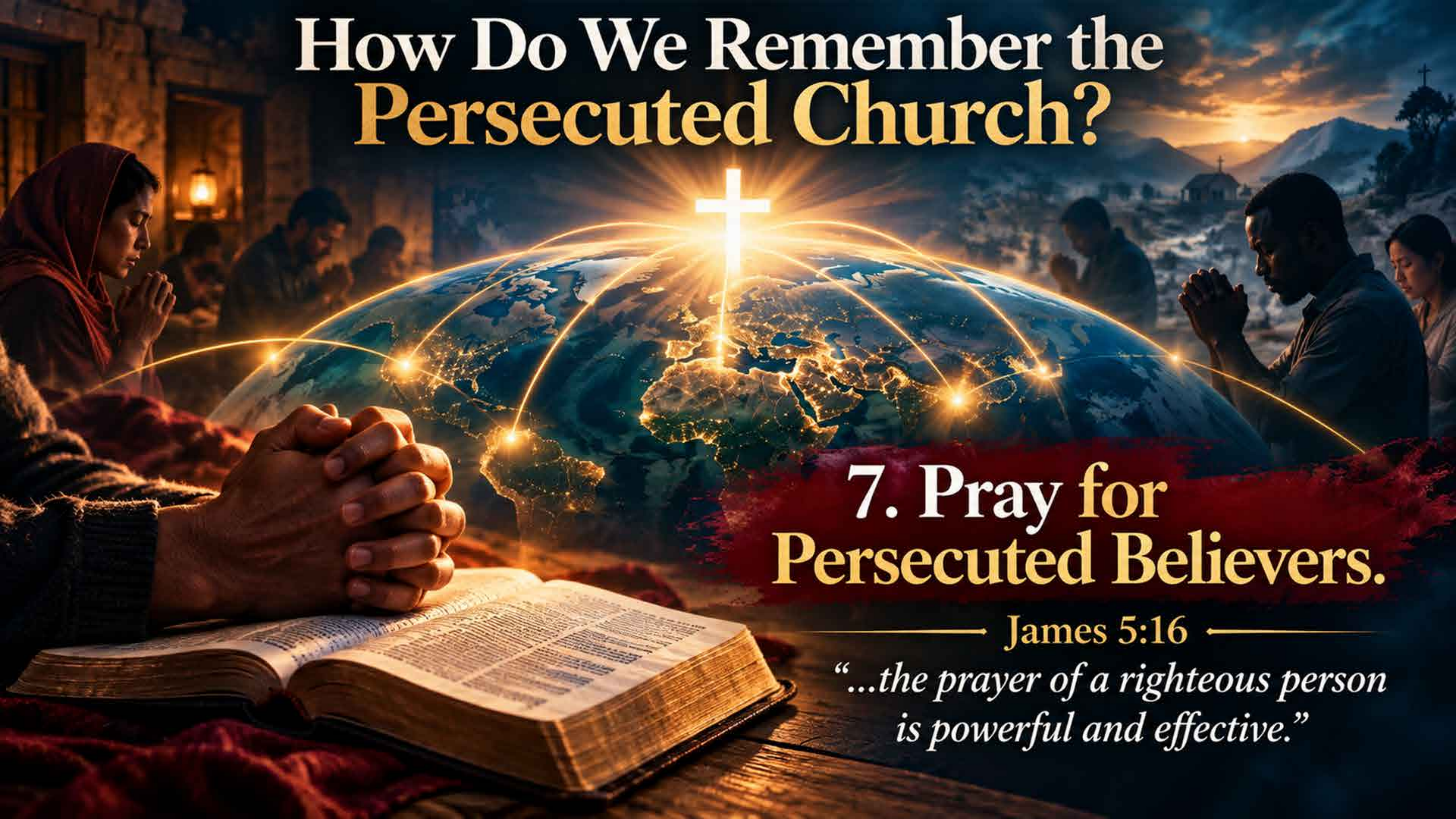


Love Must Become Practical.

— 1 John 3:18 —

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth.”

How Do We Remember the Persecuted Church?



7. Pray for Persecuted Believers.

— James 5:16 —

“...the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”



① **Acts 8** teaches us that persecution cannot stop God's plan.

② **1 Corinthians 12** teaches us that suffering believers are part of us.

③ **Revelation 2** teaches us not to fear what we may suffer.

④ **Isaiah 59** teaches us that national healing requires spiritual repentance.

⑤ **Hebrews 13** commands us to remember those in chains.



HOW DO WE REMEMBER THEM?



We expect persecution in some form.



We thank God in all things.



We pray for peace and open doors.



We advance the Kingdom of God.



We follow the Shepherd at any cost.



We serve the prisoner as though we were serving Christ.



We pray faithfully for persecuted believers.