



Sermon Discussion Guide for I AM Worship Church

Opposition & Adversity

Pastor Joie Cuevas • Sunday, October 26th, 2025



We hope this material will continue to minister as the sermon was preached during our weekly worship service. When we receive God's Word at church, we need not only to hear the message, but we ought to walk it out in our daily lives. We should "be doers of the word, not only hearers." (James 1:22)

Step 1: GET TOGETHER with your family or group.

Step 2: REVIEW the key points and scriptures from the message.

Step 3: SHARE with your group what God is saying to you through the message.

Step 4: PRAY together, for each other and over each other to continue to walk this word out.

The Big Idea

Opposition and adversity aren't always a trick of the enemy—they can be God's way of treating us to transformation. What feels like resistance may actually be revelation, moving us from **submission**—where we reluctantly yield—to **surrender**, where we willingly trust God's purpose in the process (1 Corinthians 16:9; Philippians 1:29). On the other side of adversity, God's goal isn't to break us down but to bring us closer, turning our struggle into intimacy with Him and testimony for others.

Don't Miss This Point!

Read Luke 22:42. Submission and surrender are not the same. Submission involves a struggle for control—doing what's right outwardly but resisting inwardly. Surrender, however, is a willing release rooted in trust. Jesus modeled surrender in Gethsemane, praying, "Not my will, but Yours be done." Victory in adversity begins when we stop fighting God for control and start trusting Him for outcome.

Another Great Point!

Read Genesis 3:7-10. Adversity reveals what's hidden. Adam and Eve covered up with leaves to hide their shame. We use busyness, pride, or distractions to mask our pain. But God invites us to trade the "leaves" that hide us for His robe of righteousness and garment of praise (Isaiah 61:10). When we stop hiding and start healing, opposition becomes the soil where our intimacy with God grows.

One Last Point!

Read Matthew 21:19. Surrender turns adversity into testimony. The fig tree that Jesus cursed looked alive but bore no fruit. In the same way, God uses challenges to expose empty religion and produce authentic faith. As we stay in His presence—our "witness"—He strengthens our witness. What once seemed like a setback becomes a setup for others to see His power working in us.

Let's Be Doers!

This week, don't resist the pressure—**respond to it with surrender**. (1) **Admit resistance**: be honest about where you're fighting God's direction. (2) **Name the pain**: identify the wound that opposition is pressing on. (3) **Repent for the leaves**: stop hiding behind excuses or image management. (4) **Remember what God said**: revisit His promises through Scripture. (5) **Enjoy witness**: spend time with God and allow others to walk with you. (6) **Continue obeying**: let your perseverance be a living witness that His grace works in adversity. What looks like a trick today may be God's treat in disguise.