

WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO FOR YOU

Ryland Walter | November 5-6, 2022

Week 4: Handling Opposition To Your Faith

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)

Jehovah-Maginnenu = "I am the God who defends you."

You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in your word. Psalm 119:114 (NIV)

What to Remember When You Are Opposed

- It will make me _____

Jesus: "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own IF you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world." John 15:18-19 (NLT)

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:14 (NIV)

- It will deepen _____

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. 1 Peter 1:7 (NLT)

- It will give me _____

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV)

What To Do When You Are Opposed

1. Do not be _____

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

2. Do not _____

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 1 Peter 3:14 (NIV)

3. Do not be _____

If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:16 (NIV)

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17 (NIV)

4. Recognize the _____ of the opposition

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

5. Stand _____

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)

6. Do not repay evil with _____

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult... 1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12:17-19 (NIV)

7. Repay evil with _____

...On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV)

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What to Remember When You Are Opposed

- It will make me more like Christ

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- It will deepen my faith

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- It will give me eternal rewards

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HANDLING OPPOSITION TO YOUR FAITH Talk-it-Over Notes | November 5-6, 2022

REVIEW IT

Everyone suffers, but some in the world are suffering because of their faith in Christ. The Apostle Paul makes it clear to believers in 2 Timothy 3:12 that, *“Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others.”* There are three things believers can remember when they face opposition that will give them great strength: 1) Opposition can make me more like Jesus, 2) Opposition will deepen my faith, and 3) Opposition will give me eternal rewards.

The Apostle Peter wrote to the church where he gives many instructions in how to respond to the trial of persecution they were enduring. When believers face opposition, some things they can do include:

1. Don't be surprised (Darkness does not like light)
2. Don't be afraid (The love of God casts out fear)
3. Don't be ashamed (If you're doing what is right, know the peace of God)
4. Recognize the source (Look past the person to the real source of oppression)
5. Refuse to retaliate (You are most like Christ when you do not attack back)
6. Respond with a blessing (This takes great courage, and shows the love & power of God in you)

Spend some time in the word... **Read 1 Peter chapter 4**

TALK ABOUT IT

- What stood out to you from reading that chapter of scripture? Did any particular verse give you an impression?
- Open your Bible to John chapter 3. Read verses 16-21. Notice verse 19. What – or Who – is the Light? Why did men love the darkness rather than the Light? What is God's judgment of these people according to Jesus?
- Discuss in your group how you feel about the persecution of Christians around the world. How have you or anyone close to you been impacted by disapproval or rejection because of your faith?

ACT ON IT

Read Matthew 5:10-12 at the top of the page. Discuss how these verses give you hope and help you more confidently and fearlessly proclaim your Christian faith as a result.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take a moment to pray for the persecuted. Visit icommittoprayer.com to see some specific requests. What do you need prayer for today? Take some time to ask how you can pray for and support one another this week. Then, close praying for one another.