

A RIDE NATURE MINISTRY RESOURCE

# PERSECUTION

A CHANCE FOR GROWTH



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PUBLISHED AND PRODUCED BY  
THE RIDE NATURE ORGANIZATION  
AS A RESOURCE AND TOOL FOR  
ACTION SPORTS FOCUSED DISCIPLESHIP.

AS AN ORGANIZATION AND STAFF  
WE MOST REGULARLY UTILIZE  
THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV) BIBLE.

WE ADVOCATE THE USE OF THIS TRANSLATION  
AND WOULD RECOMMEND THE ESV  
WHEN LOOKING UP THE SCRIPTURE VERSES LISTED.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ENCOURAGE THE DUPLICATION  
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PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU DO SO.

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# WHAT IS PERSECUTION?

**Persecution is a form of oppression or harassment that can be physical, social, mental, and spiritual, because of your faith and belief in Jesus.**

Persecution comes in many different forms and fashions. Most people think of persecution as a physical affliction that someone might receive because of their faith. While this is one form of persecution, it is not the only form, or even the most common.

Persecution can come in the form of social oppression or being shunned by your family, friends, or the world around you. Persecution can also be mental. There might be times when people question your logic or thinking and ridicule you for it. Lastly, persecution can also come in the form of spiritual oppression from the enemy satan. Satan wants you to suffer for, and even question your faith.

Whatever form of persecution you are facing, you can know and trust that the Lord is with you in the midst of your persecution. Not only that, but the victory is already won in Jesus. John 16:33 says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



# OBJECTS OF PERSECUTION?



**The Bible teaches that those who follow Christ and God's Word and who practice his commandments will be persecuted.**

It's important to note that not every time something bad happens to you that it means that you are being persecuted. Persecution is based off of you following Christ and God's word. Sometimes bad things happen but it was not necessarily because of your faith. At the same time, sometimes you might come in contact with opposition or oppression but maybe you were simply in the wrong and that is not persecution, but a consequence.

**2 Timothy 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"**

Because we desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus, the bible gives us this promise that we will be persecuted. Since we know this, we must be prepared for the moments when persecution comes our way. We are objects of persecution and we need to embrace it.

# REACTION TO PERSECUTION?

**Love & Prayer: Matthew 5:44** "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

Our first reaction to persecution should be to love. Whoever is persecuting you does not know God so they do not know love. Our first reaction should be to show them the love of God as they persecute us. At the same time, we should pray for them, that God would reveal the mystery of the gospel to them.

**Mercy: Romans 12:20** "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head"

Give the persecutor the mercy that God has given us in our sins and transgressions.

**Forbearance: Matthew 5:38-42**

We should withhold retaliation. Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek when we encounter this kind of opposition.



# OUTCOMES OF PERSECUTION?



## **Blessing**

The Bible tells us over and over again that with persecution comes blessing. This might not be a physical blessing but a spiritual blessing.

## **Matthew 5:10-12**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## **Spiritual Growth**

I love the verses in Romans chapter 5 that speak to the growth that we will gain through persecution and other trials.

**Romans 5:3-5** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

# OUTCOMES OF PERSECUTION?

## **Glorify God**

Persecution and suffering should lead us to glorify God. We realize when we are persecuted that our life is all to give God glory, and our persecutors can see that we are not moved to shame but we are moved to give our God in heaven praise and glory.

## **1 Peter 4:16**

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

## **Spiritual Growth**

I love the verses in Romans chapter 5 that speak to the growth that we will gain through persecution and other trials. Endurance, character, and hope is our future outcome at the end of persecution.

**Romans 5:3-5** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



# WHAT DOES PERSECUTION LOOK LIKE IN YOUR LIFE?

Have you experienced persecution in your life? If so then how?

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How do you tend to avoid persecution and why?

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Name 3 people that you want to share the gospel with this week.

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list 1 thing that you want to overcome in fear of persecution.

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***“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”***

***Romans 8:35-37***