A man in a light-colored long-sleeved shirt is walking through a prison hallway, looking upwards with a contemplative expression. He is flanked by two police officers in dark uniforms and caps. The hallway is lined with prison cells, and the lighting is dim and blue-toned, creating a somber atmosphere.

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

• Matthew 5:10

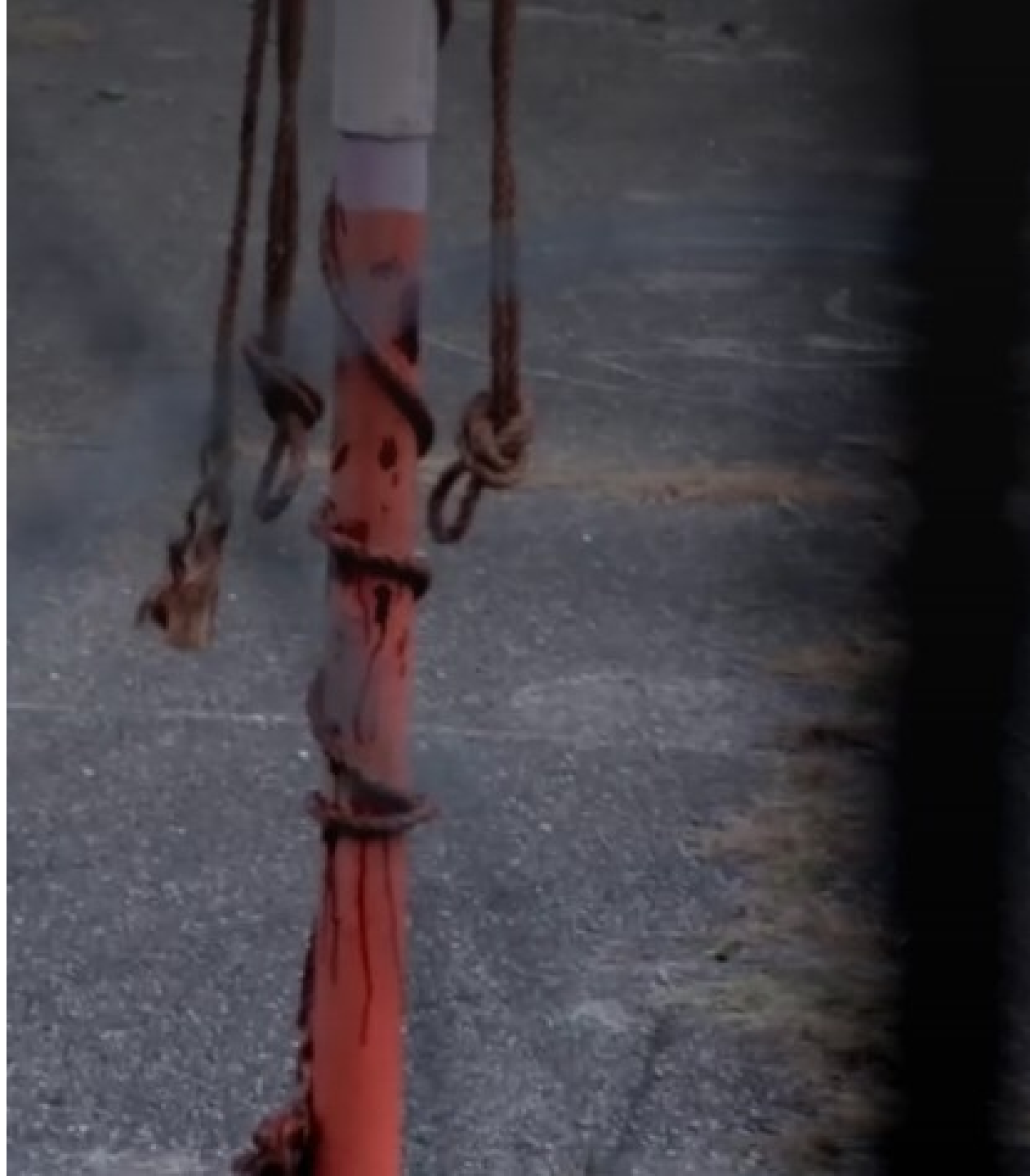
# Persecuted

## **διώκω diōkō**

To chase after/pursue or put to flight or harass

Is neutral and can be used in the positive

(Rom. 9:30,31, 1 Cor. 13:1, Phil. 3:12,14, 1 Thes. 5:15, 1 Tim. 6:11, Heb 12:14...)



# Persecuted *διώκω diōkō*

- Active attack, harassment or chasing after
- Persecutor goes out of their way
- Don't need to seek it out



# **Matthew 5:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



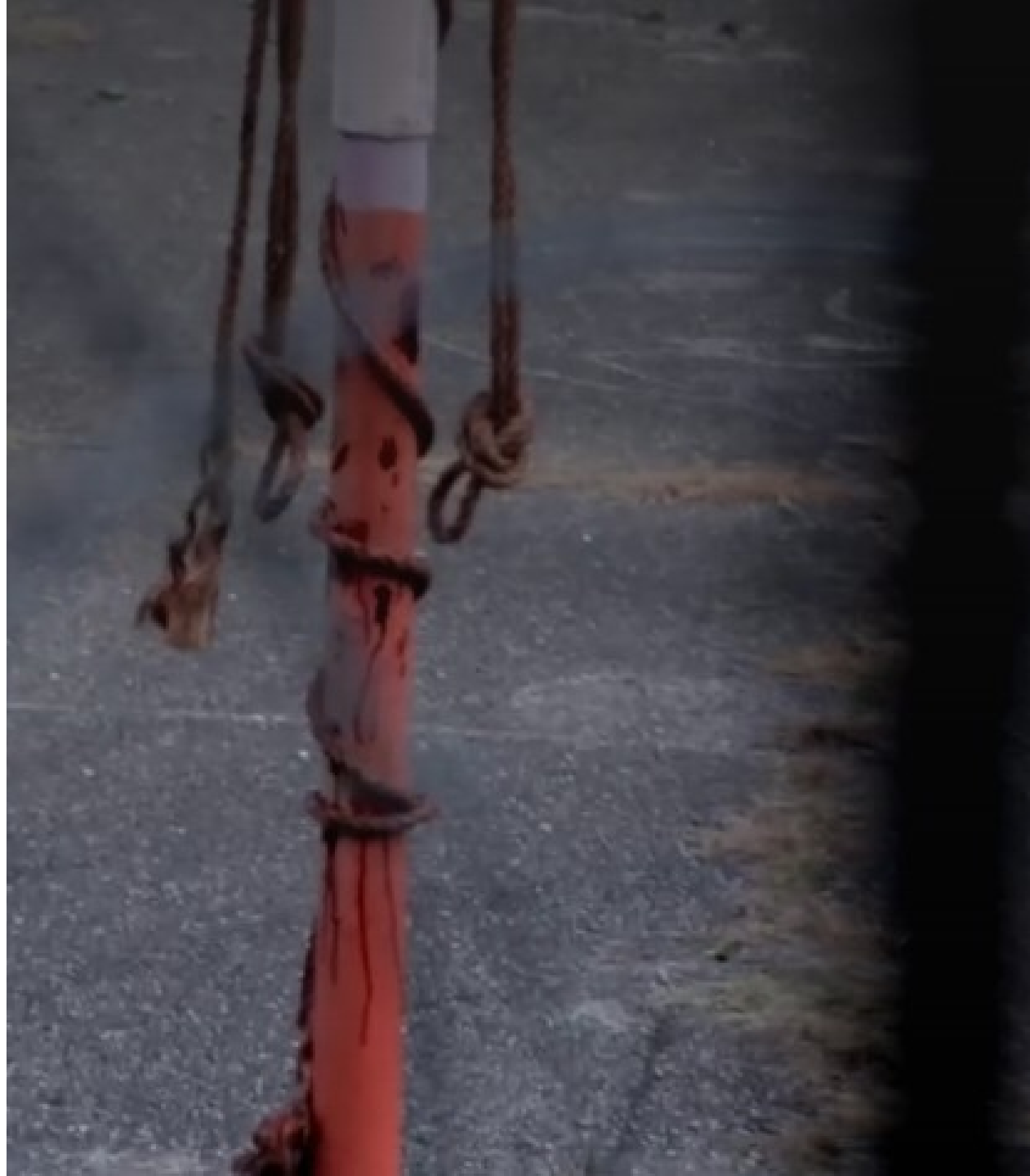
# **Matthew 5:10- 12**

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.



# **Matthew 5:10- 12**

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



# The Exodus Pattern



Redeemed and set apart by God



Guided through the wilderness



Victory and Entry into the Promised Land

# The Exodus Pattern



Redeemed and set apart by God



**Guided through the  
wilderness**



Victory and Entry into the Promised Land

# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution <sup>23</sup> (also Matthew 16:13-23)

<sup>18</sup> Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" <sup>19</sup> And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ

# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution<sup>23</sup> (also Matthew 16:13- 23)

<sup>21</sup> And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,  
<sup>22</sup> saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution

- The “Christ” (or anointed) of God
  - The Twelve Returned with Power
  - Jesus Taught of The Kingdom of God
- Suffering
- Rejection
- Death

# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution

- Temptation in the wilderness *(Mt 4:1-11 Mk 1:12-13 Lk 4:1-13)*
- Attempts to discredit *(Mt 21:23-27 Mt 26:63-66 Jn 5:16-18 Mt 9:34 Mt 22:15-40 Lk 11:53-54 Jn 9:24...)*

## **Matthew 9:34**

<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution

- Temptation in the wilderness *(Mt 4:1-11 Mk 1:12-13 Lk 4:1-13)*
- Attempts to discredit *(Mt 21:23-27 Mt 26:63-66 Jn 5:16-18 Mt 9:34 Mt 22:15-40 Lk 11:53-54 Jn 9:24...)*
- Rejection *(Mt 13:53-58 Lk 9:51-56 Jn 1:10-11 Mt 26:47-56 Mt 27:20-23...)*
- Reviling and false accusation *(Jn 8:19 Mt 26:59-61 Mt 27:27-31 Mt 27:39-44 Mk 15:29-32...)*
- Beating and Humiliation *(Mt 27:27-31 Lk 22:63-65 Jn 19:1-3...)*

## **John 19:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.

<sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands.

# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution

- Temptation in the wilderness *(Mt 4:1-11 Mk 1:12-13 Lk 4:1-13)*
- Attempts to discredit *(Mt 21:23-27 Mt 26:63-66 Jn 5:16-18 Mt 9:34 Mt 22:15-40 Lk 11:53-54 Jn 9:24...)*
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- Beating and Humiliation *(Mt 27:27-31 Lk 22:63-65 Jn 19:1-3...)*
- Death *(Mt 27:45-56 Mk 15:33-41 Lk 23:44-49 Jn 19:28-37 1 Peter 2:24)*

# 1 Peter

## 2:24

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<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed.**



# The Kingdom Won Through Persecution

- Temptation in the wilderness *(Mt 4:1-11 Mk 1:12-13 Lk 4:1-13)*
- Attempts to discredit *(Mt 21:23-27 Mt 26:63-66 Jn 5:16-18 Mt 9:34 Mt 22:15-40 Lk 11:53-54 Jn 9:24...)*
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- Death *(Mt 27:45-56 Mk 15:33-41 Lk 23:44-49 Jn 19:28-37 1 Peter 2:24)*

# **The Kingdom Won Through Persecution**

Jesus defeated death, hell, and the power of sin through perfect submission and obedience unto death.

He calls us to take up our cross...

And follow Him...

# Take up the Cross and Follow

**Luke 9:24-27 (also Matthew 16:24-27)**

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, **“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

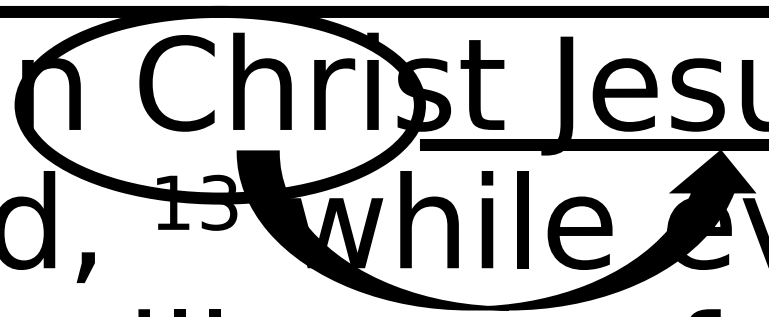
# Take up the Cross and Follow

## Luke 9:24-27 (also Matthew 16:24-27)

<sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, **of him will the Son of Man be ashamed** when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

## 2 Timothy 3:12- 13

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

A hand-drawn diagram consisting of a circle around the words "Christ Jesus" in the first line of text, and an arrow pointing from the bottom of this circle to the word "while" in the second line of text.

# Theirs is the Kingdom of God

- Walking towards the kingdom is against the flow
- Guaranteed persecution
- Woe to you if all men speak well of you... (Luke 6:26)



# Am I willing...

- To die for Jesus?
- To be imprisoned for Jesus?
- To suffer for Jesus?
- To lose my family for Jesus?
- To see my family hurt for Jesus?
- To be challenged or unfairly accused for Jesus?
- To lose everything for Jesus?



# The Purpose of Persecution

## 1 Peter

~~1:6-7~~ in this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. 7 so

# The Purpose of Persecution

## 1 Peter

~~4:6-7~~  
the tested  
genuineness of  
your faith—more  
precious than  
gold that perishes  
though it is  
tested by fire—

# The Purpose of

# Persecution

(Testing of faith (1 Pt.  
1:6-7))

## 1 Peter

**1:6-7** may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Being afraid is the natural result of being called to something beyond yourself.**

**To live by faith is to step into that calling, trusting that God will provide all things needed for life and godliness. (1 Peter 1:3)**

# The Purpose of

# Persecution

(Testing of faith (1 Pt.  
1:6-7))

## 1 Peter

~~1:6-7~~ may be found to  
result in praise  
and glory and  
honor at the  
revelation of  
Jesus Christ.

# The Purpose of Persecution

(Testing of faith (1 Pt. 1:6-7))

## James

1:2-4 Count it all joy,  
my brothers,  
when you meet  
trials of various  
kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you  
know that the  
testing of your  
faith produces

# The Purpose of Persecution

Testing of faith (1 Pt. 1:6-7)

- Sanctifying steadfastness (Jm. 1:2-4)

## James

1:2-4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

# Theirs is the Kingdom of God

- First heart condition is “poor in spirit” – the entry pass to the kingdom and the key to “abiding in Christ”
- Persecution is the process by which we see His kingdom fulfilled



# The Purpose of Persecution

- Testing of faith (1 Pt. 1:6-7)
- Sanctifying steadfastness (Jm. 1:2-4)
- That we might be like <sup>1 Pt. 4:12-13</sup> <sup>Ph. 3:10-11</sup> our Lord and Savior <sup>1 Pt. 4:13</sup> ( )

## James

~~1:2-4~~ <sup>1:2-4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

# 1 Pt. 4:12-

## 13

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice **Ph. 3:10-11** when his glory is revealed.

<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the **Ro. 8:16-17** from the dead.

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

# The Purpose of Persecution

(1 Pt. 1:6-7)

- Sanctifying steadfastness (Jm. 1:2-4)
- That we might be like our Lord and Savior (1 Pt. 4:12-13, Ph. 3:10-11)

# Am I willing...

- To stand for Jesus when I will be laughed at, scorned or abandoned?
- To be alone?
- To be unapproved of by all but God?
- To be unnoticed, forgotten, or rejected?



**In its basic  
form,  
persecution is  
a temptation  
to sin.**



# Joseph and Potiphar (Genesis 39)

- ‘She spoke to him day after day’
- Caught him by his garment
- Was angry when he did not give in
- Joseph’s reputation tarnished by a lie



# Am I willing...

- To do the job I've been given with excellence, with joy and with thankfulness?
- To give up the things I crave that make me more unhealthy every day?
- To allow my children suffer the discipline that will set them free?



# Am I willing...

- To step away from games to be with people?
- To lead daily devotions with my family even when all they do is mock or complain?
- To encourage others in their leadership even when they aren't doing it well?



# Am I willing...

- To give up that thing I feel slightly uncomfortable about every time Jesus reminds me?



# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)

## 1 Peter

~~4:19~~ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)

## Matthew

~~5:44~~<sup>45</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)
- Pray for the persecutor (Mt. 5:44-45 & Ro. 12:14)

## Matthew

~~5:44-45~~ For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)
- Pray for the persecutor (Mt. 5:44-45 & Ro. 12:14)
- Remember the Future glory (Ro. 8:18)

## Romans 8:18

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)
- Pray for the persecutor (Mt. 5:44-45 & Ro. 12:14)
- Remember the Future glory (Ro. 8:18)

## 2 Corinthians

~~12:9-10~~ ~~10~~ said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)
- Pray for the persecutor (Mt. 5:44-45 & Ro. 12:14)
- Remember the Future glory (Ro. 8:18)

## 2 Corinthians

~~12:9-10~~ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)
- Pray for the persecutor (Mt. 5:44-45 & Ro. 12:14)
- Remember the Future glory (Ro. 8:18)

## 2 Corinthians

~~12:9-10~~ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.

# How to Face Persecution

- Entrust our souls to a faithful Creator (1 Pt. 2:23 & 1 Pt. 4:19)
- Pray for the persecutor (Mt. 5:44-45 & Ro. 12:14)
- Remember the Future glory (Ro. 8:18)
- Believe in his power in present trial (2

## 2 Corinthians

~~12:9-10~~  
When I am weak, then I am strong.

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**For when I am  
weak, then I  
am strong.**



**As we walk in obedience and truth, bringing His light of grace and truth to the world, we will experience the triple pressure of the devil, the world and our flesh.**

**But faith means walking with open hands, so His power and His strength and His glory is seen by all.**

