

Persecution

Sunday, November 4, 2018
10:30 AM

1 Peter 4:12-16, 19 New International Version (NIV)

Suffering for Being a Christian

12 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. **13** But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. **15** If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. **16** However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

1. Expect Persecution

12 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.

2. Endure Persecution

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Mark 4:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Richard Wurmbrand - 14 years

Asia Bibi - 8 years

Matthew 10:16-22 English Standard Version (ESV)

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. **17** Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, **18** and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. **19** When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. **20** For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. **21** Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, **22** and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

3. Rejoice in Persecution

13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. **15** If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. **16** However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Acts 5:40-42 English Standard Version (ESV)

40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. **41** Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. **42** And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

James 1:2 New International Version (NIV)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

Romans 12:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

4. Pray for Those Persecuted

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Galatians 6:2 English Standard Version (ESV)

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.