

When Your Faith Is Opposed
Living a Life of Blessing - Part 8
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Matthew 5:10 (NIV) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Timothy 3:12 (CEV) In fact, anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others.

Remember...

1. Opposition can make me more _____.

John 15:18-20 (NLT) 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. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. Do you remember what I told you? "A slave is not greater than the master." Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

1 Peter 4:14 (CEV) Count it a blessing when you suffer for being a Christian. This shows that God's glorious Spirit is with you.

2. Opposition will _____.

1 Peter 1:7 (NLT) These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

3. Opposition brings _____.

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

Respond...

1. Don't be _____.

1 Peter 4:12 (GNT) My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful test you are suffering, as though something unusual were happening to you.

2. Don't be _____.

1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT) But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

3. Don't be _____.

1 Peter 4:16 (NLT) But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

1 Peter 5:9 (NLT) Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

1 Peter 3:17 (NLT) Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

4. Recognize the _____.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but...against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

5. Refuse to _____.

Romans 12:17-19 (NLT) Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.

1 Peter 4:19 (NIV) So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

6. Bless those who _____.

Luke 6:27-29 (NLT) I say, love your enemies? Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also.