



I. THE PROMISE OF PERSECUTION

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NLT)

Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted
2 Timothy 3:12 (TEV)

II. WAYS TO STAND STRONG THROUGH SUFFERING – 1 PETER 4:1-19

1. Think realistically (v.1-6)

About...

- Suffering (v.1)
- Sin (v.2-3)
- People (v.4-6)

2. Pray intensely (v.7)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

3. Love genuinely (v.8)

Hatred stirs old quarrels, but love overlooks insults.

Proverbs 10:12 (TLB)

4. Serve generously (v.9-11)

Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose.

Viktor Frankl, MD

5. Live hopefully (v.12-19)