

Blessed: Attitude #8 - Live With Unwavering Resilience!

October 25, 2018

Attitude #8: Live With Unwavering Resilience!

Blessed: 8 Attitudes With Promise! Pt. 8

Resilience - the power or ability to return to the original form or position after being bent, compressed, or stretched.

Matthew 5:10, *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

What Does Persecution Mean?

Definition - putting to flight, driving away, or even following with hostile intent.

Greek “dioko” in the New Testament describes inflicting suffering on people who hold Christian beliefs that were unpopular.

Acts 7:57, *At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”...*

Acts 8:1, *And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.*

**Persecution Of Christians Is Just As Real Today As It Was In
JESUS’ DAY**

Not All Persecution Is The SAME

Matthew 5:11, *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

1 Peter 3:17, *For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

1 Peter 4:15, *If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.*

How To Handle Christian Persecution When It Comes:

Matthew 5:11, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 **Rejoice and be glad**, because great is your reward in Heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

-Don't Throw A PITY PARTY

James 1:2, Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

-Don't Be SURPRISED By It Or ASHAMED Of It!

1 Peter 4:12, 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.

1 Peter 4:16, However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

-Don't Be Afraid Of It Or RUN FROM IT!

1 Peter 3:14, But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "**Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.**"

1 Peter 5:9, Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

-Trust GOD With It And Overcome It With GOOD

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

Romans 12:21, Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Benefits Of Persecution:

-We Are Blessed HERE AND NOW

1 Peter 4:14, If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

-We Deepen And REFINE OUR FAITH

1 Peter 1:7, These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

-We Become MORE LIKE JESUS

John 15:18, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first... 20Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also.

-We Have ETERNAL REWARDS

James 1:12, Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Join others in hearing Daily Devotions about loving God with all your heart from the Pastor at:

www.johnmarkcaton.com

Instagram: @PastorJohnMark

Facebook: /johnmark.caton

If you want to learn more about Home and Life Groups, or have a question about Cottonwood Creek, stop by the Connect Wall in the Atrium.