

BCC Bible Study Notes
From the series: "Living' the Life"
"Courageous Faith"
November 18, 2018

"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." Matthew 5:10-12 NIV

How to handle opposition to your faith

1. Don't be _____. (John 15:18-20, 1 Peter 4:12)
2. Don't be _____. (1 Peter 3:14)
3. Don't _____, instead continue to do what is _____. (Rom. 12:21, 1 Pet. 4:19)
4. Recognize _____ is behind the opposition. (Ephesians 6:10-12)
5. Ask God for courage to _____ against opposition. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
6. Remember that opposition can _____ your faith. (1 Peter 1:7)
7. Rejoice because you will be _____ in heaven. (Matthew 5:10-12)

If Christianity was illegal in America and you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

BCC Verse of the Week: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*
Romans 12:21 NIV

BBC Devotional Guide for November 18-24, 2018

Sunday: Read John 15:18-20. Don't be surprised when you face opposition to your faith. Jesus reminds us that just as he faced persecution so will his followers. If you are a Christian, are there any ways that your faith is being opposed by your family, friends, neighbors or coworkers? Do people know that you are a follower of Christ? Do they know what you believe about Him?

Monday: Read 1 Peter 3:14. Don't be afraid when you face opposition to your faith in Jesus. Believers in many parts of the world face intense persecution that can cost them their lives. Here in America there is often pressure on Christians to remain silent about what they believe. If you are a Christian, have you ever been afraid to stand up for what you believe? Ask God to help you deal with your fear so that you can be a witness for Jesus in this world.

Tuesday: Read Romans 12:21 and 1 Peter 4:19. When you encounter opposition to your faith in Jesus don't retaliate, instead continue to do what is good. Jesus told us that when we follow Him others will say false things about us. As a Christian, you may be insulted, lied about, dishonored, or discredited. How should you respond? Like Jesus—with grace!

Wednesday: Read Ephesians 6:10-12. These verses describe a spiritual war that is taking place around us every day and we need to recognize who is behind the opposition to our faith in Jesus. Satan is a real enemy who hates God and those who love Him. The weapons we can fight with are prayer and the Word of God. Make a commitment to pray for those who are persecuted and to memorize God's Word to protect your heart and mind.

Thursday: Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. Ask God for the courage you need to stand firm when others oppose your faith in Christ. America is becoming more and more secular and opposition to Christian faith and values has been growing for decades. This is an opportunity for the church to stand firm in its commitment to Christ. If you are a Christian, pray that God will give you the courage you need so that you don't compromise your biblical convictions.

Friday: Read 1 Peter 1:7. Remember that opposition can strengthen and purify your faith. Just like the muscles in our body grow stronger with resistance, so our faith goes stronger with opposition. The strongest believers in the world today are those who face intense persecution for their faith and according to this verse, their faith will bring them great honor and praise when Jesus returns. Pray for those around the world who face persecution and ask God to strengthen their faith—and yours.

Saturday: Read Matthew 5:10-12. God promises a reward in heaven to those who are persecuted for the cause of Christ. There are those who face opposition to their faith because they are rude and self-righteous thinking that they are better than others. God calls us share our faith with gentleness and respect for others (1 Peter 3:15). God rewards us when we are persecuted for being like Jesus. Pray today that you will become more and more like Jesus—full of grace and truth!

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