

The Year of Harvest

Prayer Guide

Week 38

The Year of Harvest – The Fruit of the Kingdom – The Persecuted

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10 (NKJV)



Prayer Focus: This is actually a very astonishing fruit in the life of the believer in Jesus Christ. In a world where many preach wealth and prosperity, and a “good life” with Jesus, He speaks of the blessings that come to those who are persecuted for their faith. In many cases in our society, we think if a believer is suffering there must be something wrong with them. Perhaps they do not have enough faith. However, in our modern world, we live in a time when there is more persecution of Christians than in any other time in the history of the Church. Who is not aware, or who has not seen the horrific scenes of people being beheaded simply because they believe in Jesus Christ, and would not renounce that faith. There is another sad reality of our time, and that is the fact that there are times when those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can even be persecuted by people within the church. Someone who we think is too “radical” in their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is willing to take that faith to uncomfortable places, or who speaks out too much can also feel the sting of persecution. Peter does talk about being careful we are not persecuted because we do stupid stuff ((I Peter 4:15). The reward, Jesus says is that for those who suffer persecution, theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. There is a special welcome for those who suffer for their faith. That is not our motivation, but it shows us that Jesus takes it seriously when we go all out to live out our faith in a hostile world. What is the level of your commitment to live out your faith? Could you stand firm in the face of severe, even life threatening persecution? Decide now.

- Day 1:** Today spend some time reading about those in the past who have been persecuted.
- Day 2:** Talk today with the Lord about your own level of commitment. Would you stand under persecution?
- Day 3:** Examine your heart and repent of any ways you may not have that kind of commitment.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to strengthen you so that if there comes a time of testing, you will be able to stand.
- Day 5:** Pray that your church will be preparing its people to stand if and when days of trouble come.
- Day 6:** Pray that God would prepare Christians in your city to be able to stand for their faith under persecution.
- Day 7:** Pray for missionaries who are many times challenged with the possibility of severe persecution.