

***“Yes, and all who desire to
live godly in Christ Jesus
will suffer persecution.”***

2Timothy 3:12

As believers in Christ, should we expect challenges and trials because of our faith? What did Jesus teach us on this?

John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 15:18-19: “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

What’s more?

Matthew 10:22: “You will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

Why do we suffer persecution?

1Peter 2:21: “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

However:

2Corinthians 4:8-10: “*We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”

Do I realize that the world does reject those who are standing firm to follow Christ, but that as well the prize of eternal life is well worth the price?

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***“We know that all things
work together for good
to those who love God,
to those who are the called
according to His purpose.”***

Romans 8:28

Why must we trust God through difficult times and trials, even when the world rejects us as we follow Christ?

Philippians 3:8: “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

Romans 8:37-39: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

What’s more?

Psalms 46:1-2: “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.”

Therefore:

Jeremiah 17:7: “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.”

Does my life testify to my faith in God, and to my commitment to trust and follow Christ?

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***“Trust in the LORD always,
for the LORD GOD
is the eternal Rock.”***

Isaiah 26:4

Trusting God requires a heart attitude anchored in Christ. How is that attained in a believer's life?

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Colossians 3:23-24: “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Philippians 3:12: “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

Why?

2Corinthians 5:17: “If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Isaiah 26:3: “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

Therefore:

1Peter 5:6-7: “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

Is my faith anchored in Christ, so my heart always trusts in Him?

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*“He who does not take his
cross and follow after Me
is not worthy of Me.”*

Matthew 10:38

Why must we trust God and follow Christ, no matter the circumstances of life?

Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

Nahum 1:7: “The LORD *is* good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him.”

1Peter 5:8: “Because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

What’s more?

Jeremiah 17:5: “Thus says the LORD: “Cursed *is* the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.”

The reason Jesus said:

Matthew 7:26-27: “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

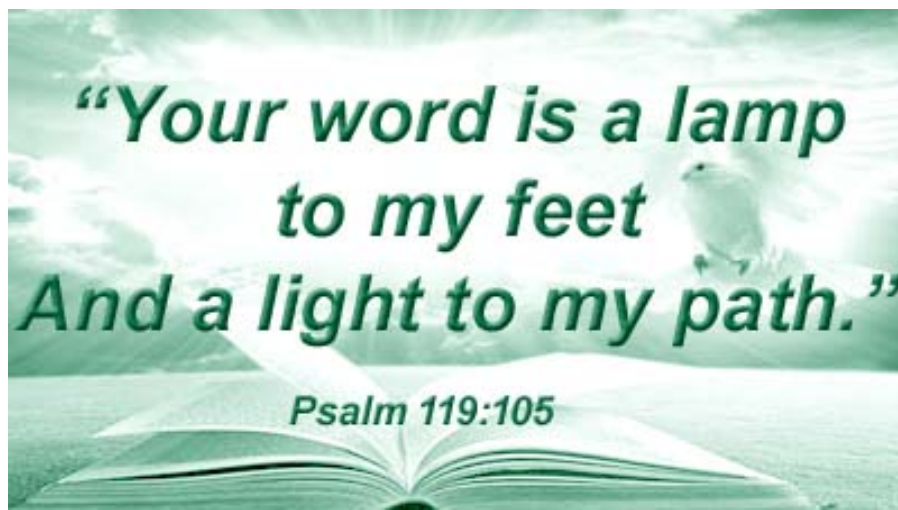
Matthew 10:28: “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Therefore:

2timothy 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Am I firmly following Christ, in all circumstances of life?

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How does faith in action translate in a believer's life?

Colossians 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Hebrews 12:1-2: "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith."

Colossians 3:23-24: "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Why?

1John 5:4: "For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith."

Therefore:

Matthew 7:24-25: "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

James 1:22: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

1Corinthians 16:13: "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

Do my thoughts, actions and words testify to my faith in Christ?

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