

STANDING STRONG IN YOUR FAITH

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“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12, NLT)

“But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution.”
(Luke 21:12, NLT)

1. **Expect persecution**

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.”
(John 15:18-19, NLT)

“For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in His steps.”
(1 Peter 2:21, NLT)

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake, engaged in the same conflict you saw I had and now hear that I still have.” (Philippians 1:27-30, ESV)

2. Act in a manner **worthy** of the gospel of Christ

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27)

3. Stand fast in **one spirit**

“I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel” (Philippians 1:27)

4. Be brave when persecution comes

“...not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God” (Philippians 1:28)

“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake, engaged in the same conflict you saw I had and now hear that I still have.” (Philippians 1:29-30)

“To live is Christ, to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)

Growth Work

1. Stay in the Word of God

“For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” (Hebrews 4:12, NLT)

2. Stay connected

(1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

3. Stay in prayer

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.” (Ephesians 6:18, NLT)

“If Christianity is to survive in a world filled with materialism, the Church must have a revival of prayer.” - Billy Graham