

## Persecution Overcome

Hikurangi Village Church- 1.5.16-ekb

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**We are in a battle and are fighting the good fight of faith, as believers in Jesus.** 1Timothy 6:12. Ephesians 6:10-18.

There is opposition and attack and persecution from the camp of satan, our adversary and enemy. John 16:33, 1Peter 5:8, 9.

**The prophecies and Scriptures that are given to us by the Holy Spirit,** enable us to wage the good warfare of faith, stand our ground, and overcome every evil attack, trying to stop us, spreading the Gospel to the lost, and living a holy life. 1Timothy 1:18.

**Keep believing the Words and Scriptures God has given you and keep proclaiming them out aloud. Romans 10:10.**

**“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might,”** by **“Put on the whole armour of God,** that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10, 11. Our battle is against the evil powers of the kingdom of darkness. Verse 12.

Ephesians 6:13-18, describes the armour that we need to put on to be victorious.

**Put on the armour of the belt of truth,** (The knowledge of the Word of God, John 17:17); **the breastplate of righteousness** which is faith and love, (1Thessalonians 5:8); **the shoes of boldly sharing the Good news** of salvation with the lost, (Acts 1:8); **the shield of faith** that quenches all the fiery darts of the devil, (faith is the Word of God in your heart and mouth-2Corinthians 4:13); **the helmet of salvation,** (the helmet of hope, 1Thessalonians 5:8, over your mind, thoughts); and **the Sword of the Spirit,** which is the Word of God; which has more power and authority than any other name or person. And keep praying all the time.

As you pray, **pray in tongues as much as possible.** 1Corinthians 14:2, 4, 18, Romans 8:26, 27.

**Sing praises that exalt the Lord Jesus Christ** and the Holy Spirit will strengthen you powerfully. John 16:14, Acts 16:25, 26.

**Speak the truth of the Word of God, in love, with all boldness.** John 17:17, Ephesians 4:15, 1Peter 3:15, Acts 4:29-31.

**Persecution comes** because Jesus has **sown His Word in our heart,** for our ministry of serving Him. Matthew 13:21.

**Trouble comes** because we seek to live a godly life and please God in all we do. 2Timothy 3:12.

**Suffering is not some strange event,** but comes to us as partakers of Christ sufferings. 1Peter 4:12, 13.

**Jesus was greatly afflicted** as He brought to us the way of salvation, eternal life, and peace with God. Isaiah 53:3-10.

**If we suffer with Jesus** we shall also be glorified together with Him. Romans 8:17, 18.

We make it our aim to know Him, the power of His resurrection, **the fellowship of His sufferings,** and being conformed unto His death. Philippians 3:10, 2Corinthians 11:23-33.

When we believe in Jesus, our Saviour, the Father delivers us from the power of darkness, (satan), **and transfers us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love.** In Him we have redemption through His Blood and the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14.

Those who do not believe in Jesus, are under the authority of the god of this world, who has blinded their minds, so that the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ will not shine on them. 2Corinthians 4:3, 4, Ephesians 2:1-3, 1John 5:19.

There is **inevitable conflict** between the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the power of darkness. John 16:33, Psalm 138:7.

**Luke 6:27-37, is instruction from Jesus about how to respond to persecution.** “Love your enemies”. “Do good to them which hate you”. “Bless them that curse you”. “Pray for them that spitefully use you”. “Do to others as you want them to do to you”. “Be merciful as your Father in Heaven is merciful”. “Judge not, **(in a condemning way; we must always test and try everything in an evaluative way as it says in 1Thessalonians 5:21)**, and you will not be judged; condemn not and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven”. Pray Acts 26:18 as a way of blessing others who have done bad things to you. Seek to act in all humility and refuse to act proudly. If you are not sure if you are proud, ask yourself if you are lifting yourself up against the other person. If we hold unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, towards another, we are disobeying Jesus’ teaching in Mark 11:25, 26, and the results of this will be very severe and terrible towards us. Remember that while we were God’s enemies, He reconciled us to Himself by the death of His Son on the Cross. Romans 5:10, 8. God’s mercy to us is extreme. Jesus died for His enemies. However, also consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17, and in Luke 17:3, 4, where another member of the Body of Christ is concerned. It is different if another Christian is the one who is persecuting us. We must first forgive as in Mark 11:25, 26, and then follow through the steps of Matthew 18:15-17, and Luke 17:3, 4.

Overcome persecution by faith in God’s Word and in the Lord Jesus Christ. **STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS YOU SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS. THE LORD JESUS WILL STAND WITH YOU AND STRENGTHEN YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP WITNESSING TO THE UNSAVED AND LIVE A HOLY LIFE. THE LORD WILL DELIVER YOU FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LION AND ALL EVIL, AND WILL PRESERVE YOU UNTO HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM. READ: 2Timothy 4:17, 18, 2Corinthians 12:9, 10.**