

## Persecution and God's Blessings

*The Beatitudes – Part 8*

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

*“Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering as if you were suffering with them.”* Hebrews 13:3 (NCV)

How: Aware Pray Give

### How to Handle Opposition to Your Faith

#### 1) Realize that not all opposition is persecution.

*“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you...because you are my followers.”* Matthew 5:11 (NLT)

#### 2) Recognize the real source.

*“We’re not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly realm . . .”*

Ephesians 6:12 (TEV)

*“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone...Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts...and they will learn the truth...and escape from the devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.”*

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NCV)

#### 3) Remember the benefits.

*“When people insult you because you follow Christ, you are blessed, because the glorious Spirit, the Spirit of God, is with you.”*

1 Peter 4:14 (NCV)

*“Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

James 1:3-4 (NIV)

*“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven...”* Matthew 5:12 (NIV)