



Blessed in Persecution

The Beatitudes

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:1-12

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Seven Scriptures on Handling Adversity:

1. ***“The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow. To cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct.***

Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.” (Psalm 37-12-15).

- a. Character is not developed in good times but bad.
 - b. Character is developed by looking at adversity through God’s eyes.
 - c. You must be armed with many scriptures of deliverance.
 - d. Adversity does not make us strong. Using our faith during adversity makes us strong.
2. *“And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.” (Luke 21:11-13)*
- a. Adversity will increase before the coming of the Lord.
 - b. Where sin, adversity abounds, grace will abound much more.
 - c. God does not promise in every case to keep us from adversity but will turn it to our blessing and testimony.
 - d. God’s love will keep you and you cannot lose His love.
3. *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:34-37)*
- a. Persecution will come appearing as a giant against us.
 - b. Like the two Old Testament spies we need to see the giants next to God.
 - c. The trials are like bread for us and will take the land.
 - d. Our victory has been promised us.
4. *“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.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)*
- a. Looking at adversity through the word of God removes confusion, fear, despair, and distress.
 - b. The word informs us we do go through adversity alone.
 - c. We are never forsaken and cannot be destroyed.
5. *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)*
- a. Compare your problems to being in Heaven one day.
 - b. Your problem is light compared to the weight of rewards you will receive.
 - c. Your problems are short in duration compared to eternity with God.
 - d. When you love the Lord, know His calling and trust in His word. Your problems will work for you and not against you.

- e. Your problems may be visible, but they are temporary.
 - f. Focus on the unseen and eternal. God's presence and His promises.
6. *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* (James 1:2-4)
- a. There are blessings which come in life when you stand in faith and have joy in persecution.
 - b. Patience is produced and is the key to maturity and stability.
 - c. Patience, maturity, and stability is the guarantee of great blessings and prosperity.
7. *"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* (James 1:12)
- a. When you obey God in troubles – you **will** come through.
 - b. Blessings will occur in life and in eternity – a crown of life.