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*Blessed* are *You*

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*A Series on the Beatitudes*

*Matthew 5:1-12*

Part 5

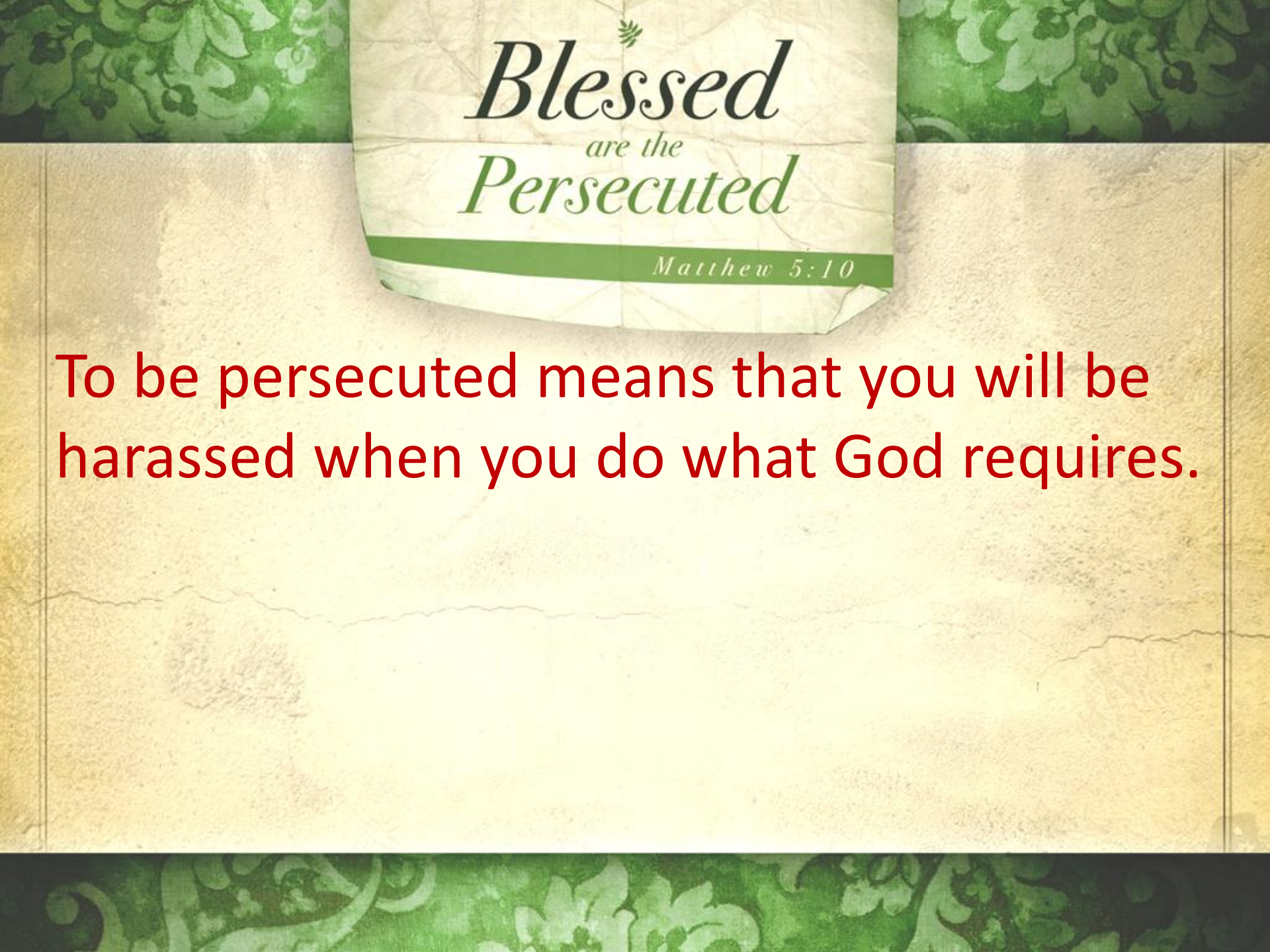


*Blessed*  
*are the*  
*Persecuted*

*Matthew 5:10*



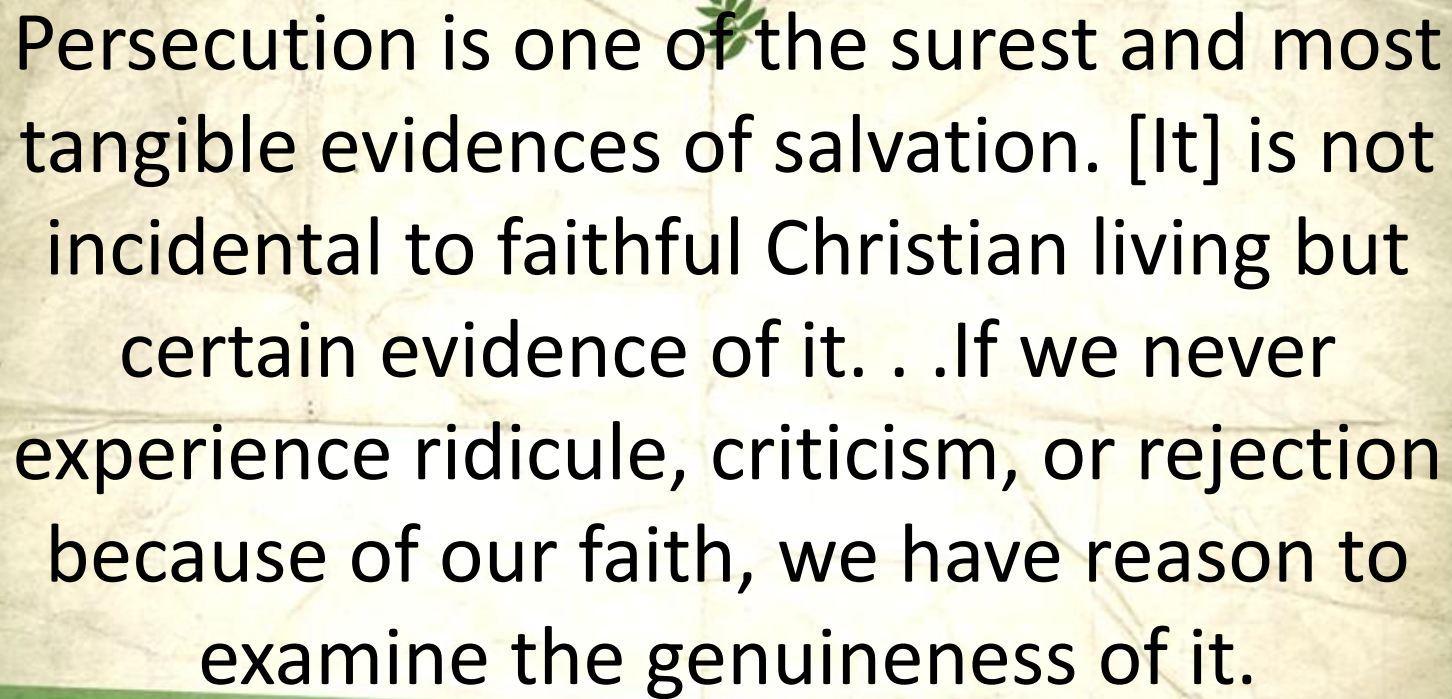
Persecuted: to systematically  
organize a program to oppress  
and harass people.



*Blessed*  
are the  
*Persecuted*

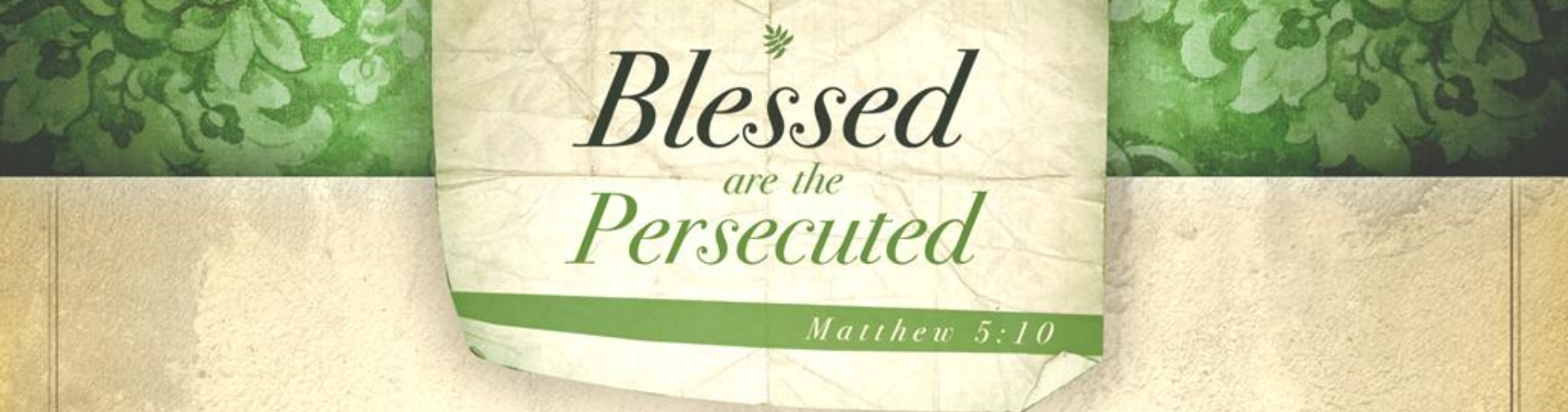
*Matthew 5:10*

To be persecuted means that you will be harassed when you do what God requires.



Persecution is one of the surest and most tangible evidences of salvation. [It] is not incidental to faithful Christian living but certain evidence of it. . . If we never experience ridicule, criticism, or rejection because of our faith, we have reason to examine the genuineness of it.

– John MacArthur

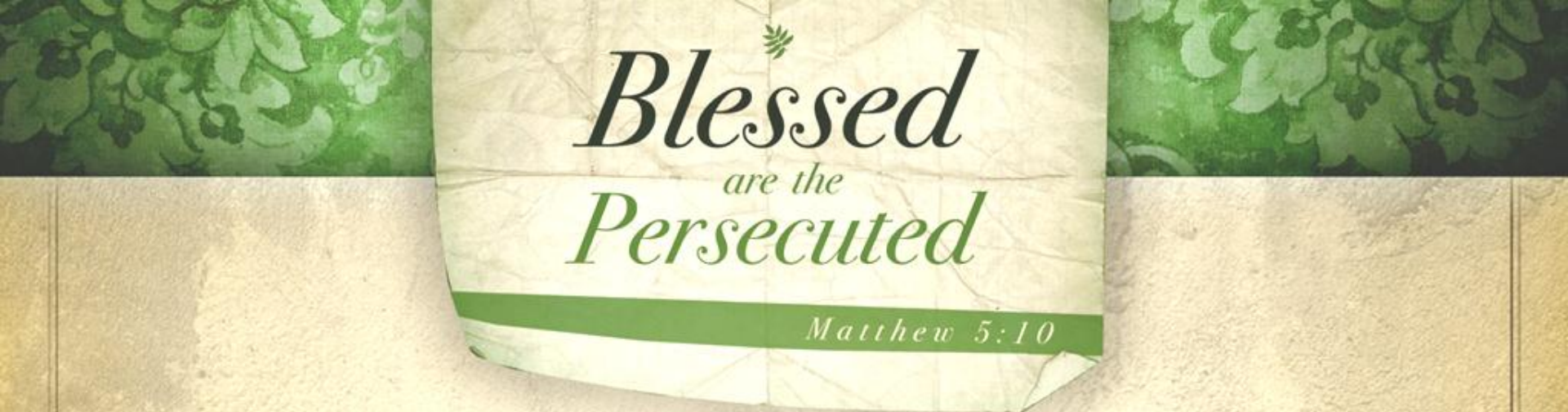


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Matthew 5:10

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- Other's words may be abusive (Mk. 15:32).



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*Matthew 5:10*

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- Other's words may be abusive (Mk. 15:32).
- **Your motives will be questioned (1 Cor. 4:5).**

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*Matthew 5:10*

To be persecuted means that you will be harassed when you do what God requires.

- Other's words may be abusive (Mk. 15:32).
- Your motives will be questioned (1 Cor. 4:5).
- **The pattern will be repeated (Matt. 5:12).**

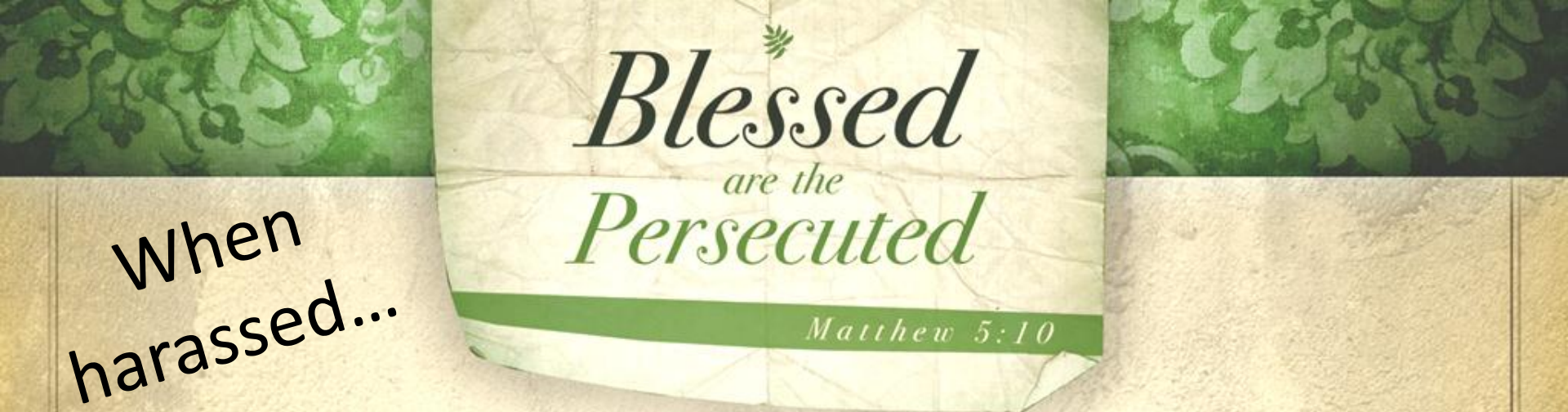


*Blessed*  
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When  
harassed...

*Matthew 5:10*

- Be resistant ...
- Be ready ...
- Be reminded ...

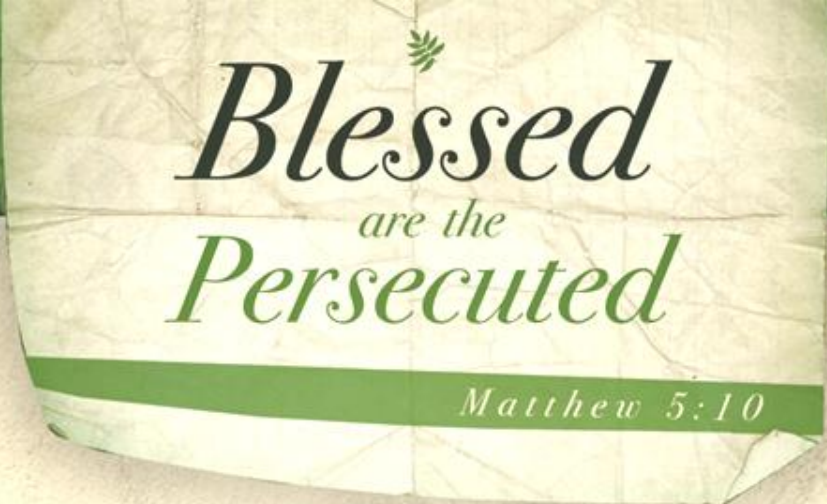


*Blessed*  
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*Matthew 5:10*

When  
harassed...

- Be resistant to thoughts of fear when you have obeyed God (1 Pet. 5:9; 3:14).
- Be ready ...
- Be reminded ...

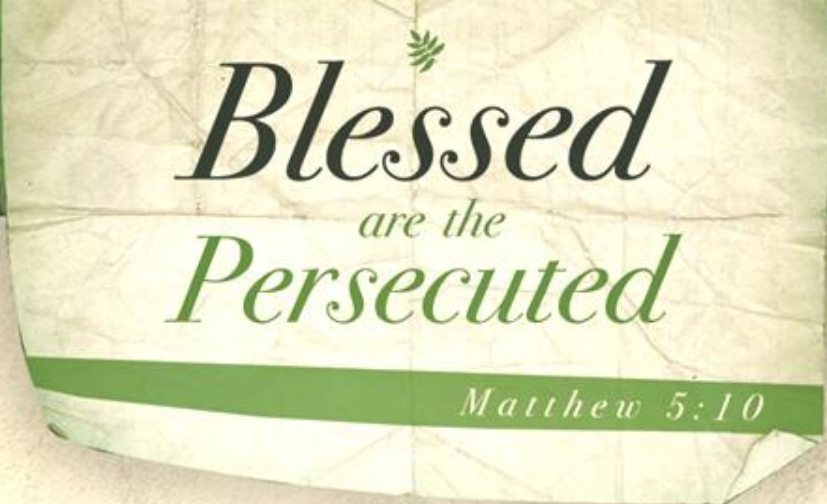


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*Matthew 5:10*

When  
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- Be resistant to thoughts of fear when you have obeyed God (1 Pet. 5:9; 3:14).
- Be ready to share your hope when you're suffering (1 Pet. 3:15).
- Be reminded ...

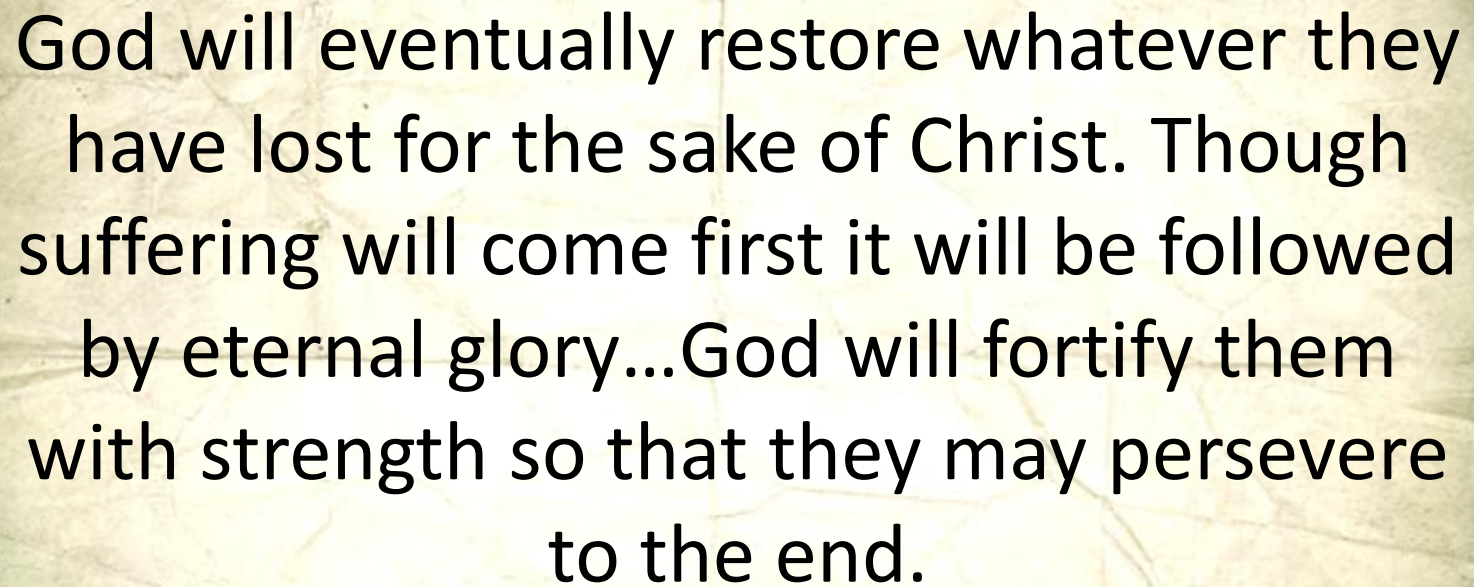


*Blessed*  
are the  
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When  
harassed...

*Matthew 5:10*

- Be resistant to thoughts of fear when you have obeyed God (1 Pet. 5:9; 3:14).
- Be ready to share your hope when you're suffering (1 Pet. 3:15).
- Be reminded that you will be restored by God (1 Pet. 5:10)



God will eventually restore whatever they have lost for the sake of Christ. Though suffering will come first it will be followed by eternal glory...God will fortify them with strength so that they may persevere to the end.

– *ESV Study Bible*



# WATCH AND PRAY

## The Persecuted Church



# **WATCH AND PRAY**

## **TOP TEN LIST**

**1-NORTH KOREA**

**2-IRAN**

**3-AFGHANISTAN**

**4-SAUDI ARABIA**

**5-SOMALIA**

**6-MALDIVES**

**7-YEMEN**

**8-IRAQ**

**9-UZBEKISTAN**

**10-LAOS**

Source: [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org)

# WATCH AND PRAY

Open Doors estimates there are 100 million Christians worldwide who suffer interrogation, arrest and even death for their faith, with millions more facing discrimination and alienation . . .

Resource: Open Doors Report, 2010

# WATCH AND PRAY

Two excellent resources:

[www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org)

[www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)

# WATCH AND PRAY

An estimated 176,000 Christians around the world were martyred – killed for their faith – in a one-year period from the middle of 2008 to the middle of 2009.

Resource: Open Doors Report, 2010

# WATCH AND PRAY

- If you are 20, in your life time 3.5 million people have died for being Christians.
- If you are 30, in your life time 5.25 million people have died for being Christians.
- If you are 40, in your lifetime 7 million people have died for being Christians.
- If you are 50, in your lifetime 8.75 million people have died for being Christians.

# WATCH AND PRAY

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail...

Luke 22:31-32

