

## Handling Opposition To My Faith

Living Like A King #8

October 26, 2014

God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right.  
They belong to the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 5:10 (CEV)**

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. **Matthew 5:11-12 (NLT)**

### **What do I need to ‘remember’ when my faith is opposed?**

1. I remember that opposition **is normal for the godly.**
2. I remember that opposition **confirms I’m more like Jesus.**
3. I remember that opposition **will strengthen my faith.**
4. I remember that opposition **can be rewarding.**

### **What do I ‘do’ when my faith is opposed?**

1. I refuse to be **afraid.**

Where God’s love is, there is no fear, because God’s perfect love takes away fear. **1 John 4:18 (ERV)**

But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. **1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)**

2. I refuse to be **ashamed.**

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. **1 Peter 4:16 (NIV)**

People today are so sinful. They have not been faithful to God. As you live among them, don’t be ashamed of me and my teaching. If that happens, I will be ashamed of you when I come with the glory of my Father and the holy angels.” **Mark 8:38 (ERV)**

### **3. I recognize the source: Satan**

Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart. **1 Peter 5:8 (TLB)**

For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. **Ephesians 6:12 (GNT)**

### **4. I rely on God’s justice.**

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For great is your reward in heaven. **Matthew 5:11-12 (NLT)**

People insulted Christ, but he did not insult them in return. Christ suffered, but he did not threaten. He let God, the One who judges rightly, take care of him. **1 Peter 2:23 (NCV)**

Don’t hit back; ... Don’t insist on getting even; that’s not for you to do. “I’ll do the judging,” says God. “I’ll take care of it.” **Romans 12:17-19 (MSG)**

So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. **1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)**

### **5. I respond with a blessing.**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:21 (NIV)**

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. **Luke 6:27-29 (NIV)**

If you stand before others and are willing to say you believe in me, then I will tell my Father in heaven that you belong to me. **Matthew 10:32 (ERV)**