

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: WILL I BE ABLE TO ENDURE PERSECUTION?

Houses of Light Church • Diciembre 17-18, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. SOME EVENTS THIS WEEK

- A. This week while I was preparing this message, several things happened that confirmed what God is saying to us at this time.:
1. I read the article by Tony Perkins who is president of the Family Research Council that said: *'Earlier this week, President Biden signed the so-called Respect for Marriage Act, which not only codifies same-sex marriage into federal law, but also opens the door to endless litigation and persecution of those who have a Biblical and natural view of marriage. I won't mince words. There is no denying that this is a tremendous blow to religious freedom in the United States. Countless God-fearing Americans could face the wrath of activist bureaucrats, politicians... and militant LGBTQ.'*
 2. Later, César Márquez, one of our youth leaders told me that **some of our youth are already experiencing some form of peer pressure in schools** by simply expressing that they do not agree with what the liberal agenda says and calling them homophobic. and all kinds of names to intimidate them into withdrawal.
 3. Later Audi, one of our sisters told me that her brother who had just received Jesus had a dream that a group of anti-Christians who made fun of the series 'The Chosen' in a very cynical way were persecuting him and his family to the point of killing them all of them and woke up crying.
 4. **And just as yesterday I was finishing my notes for this message our sister Nelly sent me a text that said:** *'Good morning Pastor I want to tell you about a dream I had about the persecution of the church...' At that moment I called her and she told me the dream: 'An army of people who seemed indigenous to my country, rose up with hatred towards the church. The ideology they had was because the government had put those thoughts in them because they took advantage of their ignorance. They came towards us with everything to kill us. They took us by surprise and we were not prepared and when we saw it we already had them on top of us. While chasing us they carried knives and went straight for the necks of the church members. And I saw how children died; At that point a voice said: 'because of such is the kingdom of heaven. They approached to want to hit some of the necks but the knife did not penetrate and the voice said: 'it is because they have the Holy Spirit.' In the group of us there was confusion; Because part of the church, by attacking the bad guys, hurt the members themselves and they told them: 'No, we are yours, don't attack us.' There was no discernment of who was who. The church group kept advancing, at no time did I see that army invade us or touch us permanently. I saw it as something very real.'*

- B. It is obvious that there is a spirit of intimidation that wants to hold us back but we have to know that we are the right people for this time. God called us from the beginning to turn on the light in darkness and that is what we are going to do with courage and determination.

II. THE REALITY OF PERSECUTION AND GOD'S PROMISES

1 Ped. 4:13-14 "But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

- A. According to the reality that Scripture presents, we will be insulted for the name of Christ when we do not do what those who do not know God do, just as Peter said previously.:

1 Ped. 4:3-4 "For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you."

- B. It is not that you make a direct protest against the bad that others do, it is simply that you are no longer doing the things that they do. You no longer live in their sensuality and partying and they call you religious, legalistic, old-fashioned, closed and they can even resort to more drastic things. You are attacked in some way because the name of Christ has led you to change your behavior and it makes them feel judged but in reality that is not your problem. Now it is important to adjust our mentality to see persecution as Jesus sees it:

Matt. 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- C. So at this time you are called to set your eyes on the future, be encouraged and rejoice in that glorious reward that God has prepared in heaven and Peter adds something else that is wonderful and encouraging when you consider if you will be able to survive a serious persecution.
- D. **"you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."** The great reward that is coming is that his glory will be revealed, so now we rejoice and rejoice in suffering or persecution so that we can rejoice when His glory comes.
- E. **v.14 "the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."** Not only does it tell us that we are blessed because we will have a future reward, but now in the present time the Spirit of glory God rests on you.

Matt. 10:18-20 "and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver

you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

- F. When the Spirit of glory rests upon you, your joy in your hope is to participate in the present of that glory which may be called a glorified joy. Paul's prayer is that we know or know now this hope of the call.

Eph. 1:18 "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."

- G. When we think: If one day it happens to me, will I be able to withstand an intense type of persecution where there is a real threat that puts me or my family in danger? **The answer is that He is going to come to help you; you are going to be blessed when this happens because the Spirit of glory is going to be there resting on you.** God is going to do something extraordinary for you in times when you need it most by granting you at least three things:

1. **See** glory as something real and supremely valuable above all that this world offers.
2. **To taste** the glory as completely satisfying so that you have no regrets if you are being taken from this world, as Paul said:

Phil. 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

3. **Feeling** great assurance that we will rejoice in Christ forever.

- H. The great truth of this passage from **1 Pet. 4:13-19** is that it says that you have a great glory coming and adds that this coming glory rests on you in the moment of your greatest need, giving you the ability to see this glory as something real and valuable to savor it. as supremely satisfying and with the strong certainty that you are going to be able to endure the persecution, what it means is that you are going to make it and you are going to have joy in God forever.

III. CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- A. We can conclude what the Lord expects of us in this passage in six things:

1. **Don't be surprised at suffering (4:12).** You must know that suffering is coming and knowing it then you are no longer surprised. Then it is about **knowing a truth about God's dealings.** This is theology, which comes from teaching or doctrine, in this case about suffering, which, being Biblical, leads us not to be surprised by suffering.
2. **Entrust yourself to the faithful Creator (4:19).** When we learn that suffering happens in the Christian life, we are encouraged to have faith in God. From knowledge comes confidence.

3. **Don't feel ashamed (4:16).** One who trusts in the Lord does not feel ashamed because he trusts that you will not be ashamed. This is keeping hope.
 4. **Rejoice (4:13):** When I am not ashamed I can feel joy.
 5. **Doing good (4:19):** From the joy that I have, I can keep doing good to those who love me and make me suffer. This is loving people.
 6. **God is glorified:** The Glory of God is the ultimate purpose of everything.
- B. This whole way of seeing the world is called worldview.** It is a way of life and therefore how you live your Christian life and what we do in the ministry. We give people knowledge and based on that knowledge we encourage them to have faith in God their Creator and product of that confidence regarding the future, we help them to see that they will never be ashamed and by being free from shame, they cultivate joy and that joy, overflows to do good to others and when they do good God is glorified.

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **According to this passage, why are they going to persecute or insult us?**
2. **Share with your Friendship Group how you feel when you hear this teaching.**
3. **For what reasons do believers know that we are going to be able to withstand persecution?**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Special Christmas service Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. • Sunday, December 25, a service at 11:00 a.m. • Saturday December 31 there will be no service • Sunday January 1st one service at 11:00 a.m.**
2. **Sanctification week begins Monday January 2-6 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** You can now pre-order your Devotionals of the 21 days of Consecration for children, youth and adults in the bookstore.
3. **Women's Retreat January 13-14 • Men's Retreat January 20-21.** Please register at the bookstore or at housesoflight.org
4. **The Discipleship School begins on Monday, January 23.** Sign up today at housesoflight.org