

## A Better Life: Wonderful News for the Persecuted

Matthew 5:10 (Wright's Translation) Wonderful news for people who are **persecuted because of God's way!** The kingdom of heaven **belongs to you.**

How do I respond when I face opposition in my faith?

### 1. **God celebrates those who remain faithful to the way of Jesus even when opposition comes.** (Matthew 5:10-12)

Persecution is not a rejection of you or me; persecution is a rejection of Jesus.

Opposition reminds me that the kingdom of heaven is mine. (Matthew 5:10; John 10:9-10 NLT)

How do I respond when I face opposition in my faith?

### 2. **Fight back like Jesus did.** (Matthew 5:43-48; Acts 5:41 MSG)

- Jesus fought back with **love**. (Matthew 5:44)
- Jesus fought back with **prayer**. (Matthew 5:44)
- Jesus fought back with **kindness**. (Matthew 5:46-47)
- Jesus fought back with **forgiveness**. (Luke 23:43)
- Jesus fought back with **endurance**. (Hebrews 12:3)
- Jesus fought back with **joy**. (Matthew 5:12)

How do I stay committed to Jesus' ways even when someone hurts me?

- Connect with Jesus through the persecution.
- Pray for the persecuted and the persecutors.
- Channel your hurt toward helping someone else who is being persecuted.
- Surround yourself with people who can encourage you.
- Remember:
  - **Jesus is your defense** in the face of accusation (Isaiah 12:2)
  - **Jesus is your strength** when you are weak. (Exodus 15:2; 2 Corinthians 12:9-11)
  - **Jesus is your security** when you feel insecure. (Proverbs 3:26)
  - **Jesus is your companion** when you feel completely alone. (James 4:8)