

## Biblical Ways to Pray for Persecuted Christians Compiled by Karen Sue Nyquist

Christians are being persecuted at various levels throughout the world. Sometimes, it is as minor as being gossiped about and not being included, other times, it can be not being allowed to get a job or to shop at certain locations. In other places, it is as severe as being beaten, raped, imprisoned, killed, etc. The most serious persecutions are in countries that are: socialist, communist, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist. We must pray for our Christian brothers and sisters!



Let's pray that they learn how to let God's grace help them have the right attitudes, even during persecution.

1. **Unashamed** - "But if you suffer because you are a Christian, **do not be ashamed**. Praise God because you wear that name" (1 Peter 4:16).
2. **Joyful** - "**Blessed are you**, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **Rejoice, and be exceeding glad**: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 5:41).
3. **Unafraid** - "And **do not be afraid** of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul," (Matthew 10:28).



### "Seven Ways to Pray for Persecuted Christians," by David Burnette, August 2, 2019.

According to a report earlier this year from Britain's Foreign Secretary, the persecution of Christians around the world is "**at near genocide levels**." Sadly, relatively few people are aware of just how severe and widespread the opposition to Christianity is. But regardless of how the world does or doesn't respond to such reports, we as Christians should be concerned for our brothers and sisters in Christ who face persecution. The author of Hebrews reminds us,

**"Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body"** (Hebrews 13:3).

Pray that:

1. God would sustain the faith of persecuted believers so that they might faithfully endure trials and suffering for Christ's sake (2 Timothy 2:12; Matthew 10:22).
2. the gospel will spread through persecuted believers, asking God to use their words (1 Peter 2:12). *That onlookers and even their persecutors will be saved.* - KSN
3. believers in persecuted areas might be able to experience the blessing of gathering with other believers for worship, as well as the regular fellowship and equipping of the church (Romans 12:3-21).
4. God would give persecuted pastors courage, wisdom, and joy as they proclaim the gospel (2 Timothy 4:1-2).
- 5a. God would put an end to violence, intimidation, and other forms of persecution aimed at silencing persecuted believers and stopping the spread of the gospel.
- 5b. persecuted Christians will not "take matters into their own hands" but rather trust in the One who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay..."



(Deut. 32:35). But self-defense is Biblical (Lk. 11:21; Ex. 22:23). — KSN

- 5c. God's people can **love their enemies** and seek to win them even as they look forward to the day when God vindicates His people (Matthew 5:43-48).
- 6. **Bibles** and resources to be made available to persecuted believers (2 Timothy 3:16–17; Psalm 119:97).
- 7. God would provide for the **physical needs** of persecuted believers (3 John 2).
- 8. God would help them look beyond their present trials and rejoice in their great reward: (Revelation 7:15–17).

**“5 Ways to Pray for the Persecuted Church”**

by Sarah Cunningham, Open Doors, 5/9/2017.

Pray that:

- 1. whatever their circumstances, God will give persecuted Christians the right words (Ephesians 6:19-20).
- 2. persecuted Christians will understand and **find peace** in the sufficiency of God's grace, even in their weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- 3. Christians facing hardship will draw from a source of **power larger than themselves** (2 Corinthians 1:7-9).
- 4. God would be present with persecuted Christians in their hardship, protecting them according to His will (Matthew 26:39). *That they will feel His presence. - KSN*  
*Some may be appointed to martyrdom (Revelation 6:11; 12:11). KSN*
- 5. their witness would inspire those who seek to harm them (Luke 6:27-31; Acts 16:25, 34).



**Red** = Severe Persecution      **Orange** = Significant Persecution      **Green** = Limited Persecution  
Some persecution in the Western Hemisphere takes place in: Columbia, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.