

## HANDLING OPPOSITION TO YOUR FAITH

### The Keys to a Blessed Life (8 Beatitudes) – Part 8

**Hebrews 13:3** “Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering as if you were suffering with them.”

**2 Timothy 3:12 (CEV)** “Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right WILL have trouble from others.”

#### WHAT TO REMEMBER

1. OPPOSITION CAN \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 15:18-20** JESUS: “When the world hates you, remember it hated me first. The world would love you IF you belonged to it, but you don’t. I chose you out of the world. That’s why the world will hate you. No servant is ever greater than his master. So since they persecuted me they will persecute you too.”

**John 3:19** “The light from heaven came into the world, but people love their darkness more than the light, because it hides their evil actions.”

**1 Peter 4:14 (Mes)** “If you’re abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It’s the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others.”

2. OPPOSITION WILL \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 1:7** “These troubles will prove that your faith is genuine. Just as gold is purified by fire and heat, so your faith, which is far more precious than gold, must also be purified by fire so it may endure. Then you’ll receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

3. OPPOSITION WILL \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 5:10-12** “God BLESSES those who are persecuted because they live for God: the Kingdom of Heaven will be theirs! You will be blessed WHEN people insult you, and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

#### WHAT TO DO

1. DON’T BE \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 4:12 (CEV/TEV)** “Dear friends, don’t be surprised or shocked when you go through painful trials that are like walking through fire, as though something unusual is happening to you.”

2. DON’T BE \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)** “If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it, so don’t be afraid and don’t worry! Instead, worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.”

### 3. DON'T BE \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)** “It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Instead, thank God for the privilege of being called by his name!”

**1 Peter 5:9 (NLT)** “Take a firm stand against Satan and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.”

**1 Peter 3:17** “Remember, it is better to suffer for doing God’s will than to suffer for doing evil.”

### 4. RECOGNIZE THE \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 6:12 (TEV)** “We’re not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly realm...”

**2 Timothy 2:23-26 (CEV)** “Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble. God’s servants must never quarrel. (Instead) be kind to everyone... and be patient. Be humble when you correct people who oppose you ... they’ve been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape.”

**1 Peter 2:23** “When they hurled their insults at him, Jesus did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to God who judges justly.”

### 5. REFUSE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 12:17-19** “Never pay back evil with more evil... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. And never avenge yourself. Leave that to God, who has said, ‘I’ll be the judge and I’ll take care of it.’”

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

### 6. RESPOND WITH \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**Luke 6:27b-29a (NLT)** Jesus: “Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. BLESS those who curse you. PRAY for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek.”

**Mark 8:38** Jesus said “IF you are ashamed of me and my commands in this godless and sinful generation I will be ashamed of you when I come back in glory with the holy angels.”

**Matthew 10:38** “But for those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven!”