



Persecution of Christians

**Christian Persecution is any hostility
experienced from the world as a result
of one's identification as a Christian**

-Open Doors USA


2015 WORLD WATCH LIST

The World Watch List is a ranking of the top 50 countries where the persecution of Christians is most severe.

Open Doors works in the world's most oppressive countries, strengthening Christians to stand strong in the face of persecution and equipping them to shine Christ's light in these places.



Extreme Persecution	4	Syria	11	Maldives	18	Qatar	25	Myanmar	32	Comoros	39	Oman	46	Azerbaijan	
Severe Persecution	5	Afghanistan	12	Saudi Arabia	19	Kenya	26	Palestinian Territories	33	Tanzania	40	Mali	47	Indonesia	
Moderate Persecution	6	Sudan	13	Libya	20	Turkmenistan	27	Brunei	34	Algeria	41	Turkey	48	Mauritania	
Sparse Persecution	7	Iran	14	Yemen	21	India	28	Laos	35	Colombia	42	Kazakhstan	49	United Arab Emirates	
1	North Korea	8	Pakistan	15	Uzbekistan	22	Ethiopia	29	China	36	Tunisia	43	Bangladesh	50	Kuwait
2	Somalia	9	Eritrea	16	Vietnam	23	Egypt	30	Jordan	37	Malaysia	44	Sri Lanka		
3	Iraq	10	Nigeria	17	Central African Republic	24	Djibouti	31	Bhutan	38	Mexico	45	Tajikistan		

**WorldWa**
Open

Jesus spoke of persecution 31 times.
The Bible continues to speak concerning it.

replace with video of Scriptures

“Behold, I am sending you out.”

-v 16 Jesus

“Beware”

“Beware”

- Jesus was aware and not being foolish
 - “Sheep in the midst of wolves”
 - Wise as serpents
 - Innocent as doves
 - Beware of men
 - “When they deliver you over...”

Matthew 10:16-20

Matthew 10:16-20

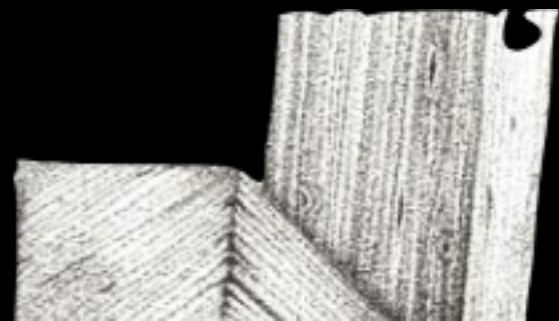
It's not about the possibility of being persecuted,
but rather how we are to respond.

- They were to not be anxious for their words
 - Not tossed around; eyes on Jesus
- The presence of God, through the person of the Holy Spirit, will be present and allow His words to be your words

Parallel Passage: Mark 13:11

“And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus was speaking.



Jesus was speaking,
(as the prophetic
often is) for the near
future as well as in a
future tense.

Matthew 10:24

“A disciple is not
above his teacher...”



Mark 15:33

“My God, my God,
why have You forsaken me?”

Living life with the

Living life with the
Kingdom of God in mind...

Intentionality...

Solid...

Substantial...







Why does persecution happen?

2 Corinthians 2:16

The persecuted church is about
worshipping the King of Kings and the
Lord of Lords for who He is.

Susan in Uganda

video

Let's pray for our brothers and sisters

3 prayers slides inserted
here

Communion

Matthew 10:26 “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell

or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. “

“What do you believe about Jesus?”