

ARTISTS UNITED INTERNATIONAL



Why does God allow persecution?

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For a few days, now, the Spirit has been talking to me about what the Word of God calls “persecution for the Word’s sake.” (Mark 4:17). **Why is God allowing persecution of his Church when he loves her so much?**

The Lord gave me a glimpse of the answer, and it thrilled my soul.

The Lord allows persecution in order to spread the Gospel of the Kingdom, and then he also rewards us according to our sufferings for His name, and the Gospel’s sake.

God uses persecution as a tool that benefits both His Kingdom and also our lives.

Many years ago I had the privilege of meeting Richard Wumbrand who was tortured in communist prisons for years. When I looked at him I could see that this was a man who was totally void of the fear of man and of sin, just as the Word says, **He that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. (1 Peter 4:1)**

Later, I also read his book “Tortured for Christ” and it changed my life. **God asked me, after I had finished reading the book, if I would be willing to pay the price that Richard Wumbrand paid for his faith in God.** I hesitated for a moment and then these words came out of my spirit, “Yes Lord, yes Lord I will, with your help I will!”

We read in 2 Timothy 3:12 that **“All that will live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution.”**

Most of the leaders of the early Church were martyred. Hebrews 11:35-38 states that it was regarded an honor to suffer and die for your faith in the early Church, believing that you would have a more glorious resurrection. (Hebrew 11:35)

We read another scripture about rejoicing in persecution in the book of Acts: **“And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.” (Acts 5:41)**

This sounds a lot different than the testimony of some Christians today who are talking about how the devil is giving them a hard time and causing them to suffer.

The truth is that gold is purified through fire, and so are we as Christians, **for the Word’s sake.**

“And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” (Malachi 3:3)

-Roger Wågsjö