

# Praying for the Persecuted Church

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**Did You Know?** Christianity is the world's most persecuted faith.

Let's define "Persecution"

## Q: Why is Jesus' Church Persecuted?

1. **It's Satan's** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings." 1 Peter 5:8-9*

2. **It's Our** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4*

3. **It Publicly Showcases Us as** \_\_\_\_\_

*"...and do not be frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been **granted** to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have." Phil. 1:28-30*

4. **It Proves Our** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12*

## What is Jesus Saying to the Persecuted Church?

*"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.' 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.' Revelation 2:8-11*

1. **I Know What You are** \_\_\_\_\_

*'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.' v 9*

2. **And, I know** \_\_\_\_\_

*'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation...' v 10*

3. **But, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*'...Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.' v. 10-11*

## What Should Jesus-Followers in Canada Be Saying to the Persecuted Church?

1. **We** \_\_\_\_\_ **you.** And we \_\_\_\_\_ **you.**

2. **We will** \_\_\_\_\_ **you.**

*Great Commission Offering this Christmas*

*Goal: \$10,000 + Match = \$20,000*

3. **We will** \_\_\_\_\_ **for you.**

4. We will \_\_\_\_\_ you.