

Faithful Through the Fire - Week 6

1. Persecution has always been a part of life for God's people; it is still an intense reality all over the world and a normal part of life for millions who follow Christ. In the Last Days Christians can expect persecution to increase and intensify even more. *2 Timothy 3:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8-11; Revelation 6:9-11; Revelation 2:10; Revelation 3:11*

2. Persecution helps build faithful and passionate Christians; it produces in people the greatest expression of the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ- the choice to give our all for Him, even to the death. It deepens and refines our faith, patience, love and endurance. *2 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 Peter 4:12-14*

3. We stay strong through faith in Christ and faithfulness to the truth of God's word. We allow the Word to change our hearts and respond to it by changing how we live and love. *2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 17:14; John 17:17; James 1:21-27; 1 John 2:5; Revelation 12:10-12; Revelation 3:8*

Next week's message: A Legacy of Finishing Well

Life application questions:

1. Share a way you feel you've been persecuted for your faith in Christ.
2. How have you grown, become more faithful to God, or passionate about your relationship with Jesus as a result of persecution?
3. How far would you go for Jesus? What would you give up to stand up for Him?
4. How has the Word of God changed your life? Give an example.