



How to Pray for ✝ Persecuted Christians

Dear Prayer Partner,

The persecution of Christians is increasing throughout the world.

In over 50 countries worldwide, it is estimated that the number of Christians persecuted for their faith reaches into the millions making them one of the most persecuted religious groups in the world.

However, every attempt to wipe out Christianity and frustrate the advancement of the Gospel has failed. In spite of government restrictions, attacks and constant persecution from extremist groups, God continues to build His church.

Every Christian throughout Australia has been given a crucial role to play in this spiritual battle, and the victory is achieved through prayer. One of the most effective weapons every child of God has been armed with is prayer. Because as James 5:16 says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Voice of the Martyrs has developed this prayer guide to help you know how to pray when interceding for persecuted Christians. Prayer is essential and is a vital part of the ministry of Voice of the Martyrs. Will you join us in interceding for those being persecuted today?

In Christ,

**Tony Benjamin – CEO
Voice of the Martyrs**

How to Pray for Persecuted Christians

The Bible is our best guide. Please pray that:

Psalms

- They will rest in the knowledge that the Good Shepherd walks with them through this difficult time (Psalm 23).
- The provision of Bibles and other Christian literature will reach the most remote and needy areas where they are in the shortest supply (Psalm 119:42-43).
- God would bring verses of Scripture to mind that will comfort them (Psalm 119:49-56).
- God will bring about justice in an unjust world (Psalm 140).

Matthew

- They will rejoice that theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:10).
- They will exemplify the love of God through consistent love and prayer for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:43-48).
- They will rely on the Lord to give them the words to say when they stand before accusing authorities (Matthew 10:19).

Acts

- Increased persecution will result in increased boldness among the believers (Acts 4:29-31).
- Believers will echo Peter's sentiment and determine to obey God regardless of what man says (Acts 5:29).
- Those who oppress Christians may experience repentance and salvation, just as Paul did (Acts 9:1-19).
- Everything they have and even their very lives will mean nothing in comparison with the joy of knowing Christ and sharing Him with others (Acts 20:24).

Romans

- They will never be ashamed of the Gospel because God's power brings salvation through it (Romans 1:16).
- As they suffer, they will find peace in the fact that as they have suffered with Christ so they will be glorified with Him, being fellow heirs with him (Romans 8:15-17).
- The persecutors will know Christ's love, forgiveness and blessing through the lives of the Christians (Romans 12:14, 21).

1 Corinthians

- Those who lose loved ones will find comfort in the fact that Christ is victorious over death, and their dead in Christ will be raised with Him. Pray that, in view of this promise, they will continue to give themselves fully to the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

2 Corinthians

- As sufferings overflow, their comfort in Christ will be more than enough for them (2 Corinthians 1:5).
- Those who suffer tremendous physical pain and trials will be strengthened and delivered by the Lord (2 Corinthians 1:8-11).
- God would be glorified as they steadfastly fix their eyes on what is eternal (2 Corinthians 4).

Ephesians

- Those who falsely accuse believers of forcible conversion will see that the message we bring is one of a free gift, not coercion, and respond in faith to Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- The Lord would make them strong to lovingly and boldly proclaim the Gospel (Ephesians 6:18-20).

Philippians

- The Lord will be exalted, whether in life or in death (Philippians 1:20).
- They will abandon all glory for themselves in order to come into a deeper relationship with Christ as they embrace the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:7-10).
- God will fill the believers' hearts with peace beyond comprehension as they bring their needs to the Lord and rejoice in Him (Philippians 4:4-7).

Colossians

- God will provide opportunities for those in prison for their faith to clearly share the Gospel for which they suffer (Colossians 4:2-3).

1 Thessalonians

- Those who lose loved ones will be filled with the joy that comes from knowing that they will see them again at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18).

2 Timothy

- God will enable Christian parents to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Christ so that their children will be encouraged to walk closely with the Lord as they grow up (Deuteronomy 11:18-20, 2 Timothy 1:5).

Hebrews

- The believers will be encouraged to continue to meet together despite opposition (Hebrews 10:23-25).
- They will keep their eyes on Jesus, persevere in their faith, and not grow weary or lose heart. (Hebrews 10:32-39;12:1-3).
- God will keep you faithful to walk beside them in love, prayer and encouragement (Hebrews 13:3).

James

- They will rejoice in the opportunity to grow in Christlikeness through the ongoing opposition they face (James 1:2-4).

1 Peter

- They will take comfort in the fact that God commends those who suffer for doing good (1 Peter 2:20-21).
- Christians will rejoice in their afflictions knowing that they share in the sufferings of Christ, that He will be glorified and that theirs is the kingdom of heaven (1 Peter 4:12-13).
- The spiritual leaders will remain faithful to the task God's given them, knowing that they will receive the crown of life (1 Peter 5:1-4).
- They will remain steadfast in the faith (1 Peter 5:8-10).

Voice of the Martyrs exists to serve the persecuted church with practical and spiritual assistance and to lead Christians in the free world into fellowship with persecuted believers. Our ministry is inspired by Hebrews 13:3, *"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also."*