

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 PETER 4:12

**But rejoice inasmuch as you
participate in the sufferings of
Christ, so that you may be overjoyed
when His glory is revealed.**

1 PETER 4:13

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 PETER 4:14

If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

1 PETER 4:15

However, if you suffer as a Christian,
do not be ashamed, but praise God
that you bear that name.

1 PETER 4:16

For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the Gospel of God?

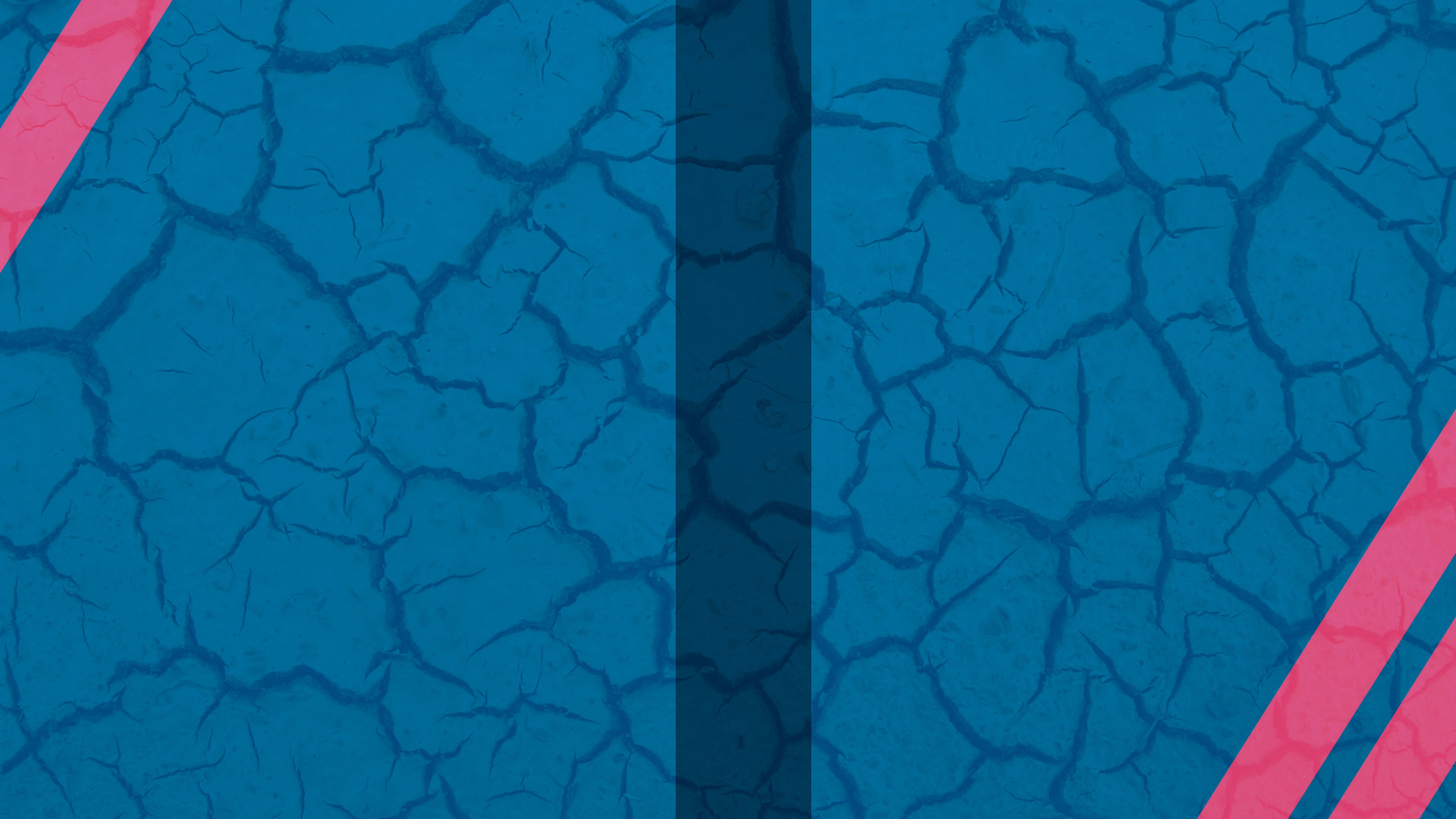
1 PETER 4:17

And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

1 PETER 4:18

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

1 PETER 4:19



Proper Responses to Suffering (4:12,13)

Proper Responses to Suffering

We think that bad things shouldn't happen to good people. "If I'm following God, then good things should accompany my life."

Proper Responses to Suffering

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

Proper Responses to Suffering

“Suffering should never come as a ‘surprise’ to the follower of Christ, for Christ himself was not spared. The sufferings of Christians are simply their share in the once-for-all sufferings of Jesus Christ.”

J. RAMSEY MICHAELS

Proper Responses to Suffering

If I avoid suffering by refusing to follow God through the darkest times of my life, I don't just bypass the suffering; I also bypass the glory of God in my life.

Proper Responses to Suffering

...because you know that the testing
of your faith produces perseverance.

JAMES 1:3

Proper Responses to Suffering

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1 PETER 1:6

Proper Responses to Suffering

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 PETER 1:7

Proper Responses to Suffering

“God is simply taking you where you do not want to go to produce in you what you could not achieve on your own.”

TIMOTHY LANE & PAUL DAVID TRIPP

Proper Responses to Suffering

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering (4:14–16)

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:10

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”

MATTHEW 5:11

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

MATTHEW 5:12

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

**We ought to be convictional
without being abrasive.**

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 PETER 5:9

Contrasting Reasons for Suffering

Genuine
Righteousness
Amidst Suffering
(4:17,18)

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

“The suffering they bear for the name of Christ, which is shaming them in the eyes of society, becomes their badge of honor as one of the living stones in God’s spiritual house.”

KAREN JOBES

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

**Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.**

PSALM 139:23

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

**See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

PSALM 139:24

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

**Keep on loving one another as
brothers and sisters.**

HEBREWS 13:1

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

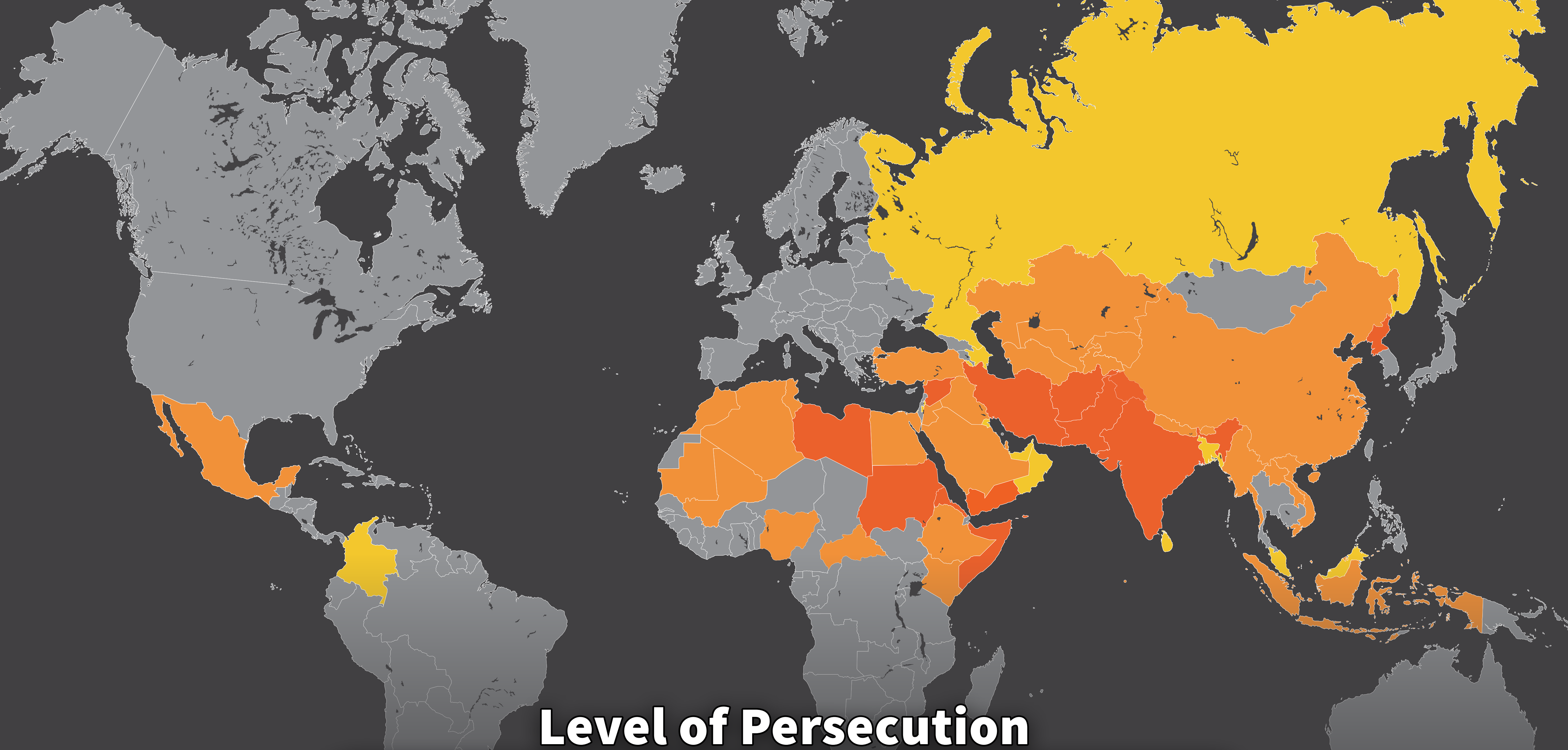
Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

HEBREWS 13:2

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

HEBREWS 13:3



Level of Persecution



Source: Open Doors USA

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

**Examples of Persecution in
Regions of Our Involvement:**

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

Examples of Persecution in Regions of Our Involvement:

**Churches branded in Europe as “cults;”
ridiculing of believers as unthinking.**

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

Examples of Persecution in Regions of Our Involvement:

**Resistance by Muslims to meetings
or spaces for believers in Cameroon.**

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

Examples of Persecution in Regions of Our Involvement:

Boko Haram jihadists in Nigeria burning chapels and abusing/killing Christians.

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

Examples of Persecution in Regions of Our Involvement:

**Seleka rebels in CAR targeting multiple
pastors and burning churches.**

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering

Examples of Persecution in Regions of Our Involvement:

**Family exclusion and abuse in Central
Asia for converting to faith in Jesus.**

Genuine Righteousness Amidst Suffering



Perspectives

on the World Christian Movement

January 6–April 27

God has a plan for every nation,
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GracePolaris.org/Perspectives.



Personal Resilience

Through Suffering

(4:19)

Personal Resilience Through Suffering

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.

1 PETER 2:19

Personal Resilience Through Suffering

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1 PETER 2:20

Personal Resilience Through Suffering

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.

1 PETER 2:21

Personal Resilience Through Suffering

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.”

1 PETER 2:22

Personal Resilience Through Suffering

When they hurled their insults at Him, he did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted himself to Him who judges justly.

1 PETER 2:23

Personal Resilience Through Suffering

“We seem to assume that God knows what He is doing when we are happy and well. It is harder to entrust our lives to God when we are suffering, and especially when that suffering is unjust and is the consequence of living obediently for Him!”

KAREN JOBES

Applications

Applications

Solidarity: We suffer with them (and seek to know when they suffer).

Applications

Supplication: We will seek God with them (and always pray when we hear of their suffering).

Applications

**Resistance: We will advocate for them
(and live in courageous ways ourselves).**

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

2 TIMOTHY 4:16

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

2 TIMOTHY 4:17

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 TIMOTHY 4:18

Prayers from Ephesians for Persecuted Believers:

**Prayers from Ephesians
for Persecuted Believers:**

**That they would know the hope God
gives (Ephesians 1:18).**

**Prayers from Ephesians
for Persecuted Believers:**

**That the Holy Spirit would
strengthen them (Ephesians 3:16).**

**Prayers from Ephesians
for Persecuted Believers:**

**That they would know how much
God loves them (Ephesians 3:17).**

**Prayers from Ephesians
for Persecuted Believers:**

**That they would know how to share
the Gospel (Ephesians 6:19).**

**Prayers from Ephesians
for Persecuted Believers:**

**That they would fearlessly tell others
about Jesus (Ephesians 6:20).**

**The Apostles left the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing because they had been
counted worthy of suffering disgrace
for the Name.**

ACTS 5:41

Day after day, in the temple courts
and from house to house, they never
stopped teaching and proclaiming the
good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

ACTS 5:42

**Suffering accompanies
knowing Jesus and
requires trusting God.**



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