“Blessed are Those Who are Persecuted for Righteousness’ Sake”
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10–12  NKJV
Blessed are those who are Persecuted

• Fellowship with the Old Testament prophets
“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10–12  NKJV
Blessed are those who are Persecuted

• Fellowship with the Old Testament prophets
• Fellowship with Jesus Christ
“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

John 15:18–20
Blessed are those who are Persecuted

• Fellowship with the Old Testament prophets
• Fellowship with Jesus Christ
• Fellowship with the Apostles
... and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 5:40–42
Blessed are those who are Persecuted

• Fellowship with the Old Testament prophets
• Fellowship with Jesus Christ
• Fellowship with the Apostles
• Fellowship with the early church
For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,

1 Thessalonians 2:14–15     NKJV
Blessed are those who are Persecuted

• Fellowship with the Old Testament prophets
• Fellowship with Jesus Christ
• Fellowship with the Apostles
• Fellowship with the early church
• Fellowship with persecuted Christians throughout the world
Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

1 Peter 5:8–9
Each month:

- 322 Christians are killed for their faith
- 214 churches and Christian properties are destroyed
- 772 forms of violence are committed against Christians (such as beatings, abductions, rapes, arrests and forced marriages)
Gao in China

“I have been arrested forty-eight times... My wife has been arrested thirty times.”
Family from Syria

“We are willing to die for Jesus, but please do not crucify us. We are not worthy of dying in the same way as our Savior.”
“I’m not angry at the one who did this... I’m telling him, ‘May God forgive you, and we also forgive you. Believe me, we forgive you. You put my husband in a place I couldn’t have dreamed of.’”
Adonay in Eritrea

“By now, I was not afraid of the soldiers. They could tell I was stubborn in my faith. They didn’t beat me first anymore because I was tough. They didn’t want the others to be inspired by my strength. So they started to beat the others first as they demanded us to renounce our faith.”
Rose in Nigeria

“Jesus! Jesus!”
Blessed are those who are Persecuted

• Fellowship with the Old Testament prophets
• Fellowship with Jesus Christ
• Fellowship with the Apostles
• Fellowship with the early church
• Fellowship with persecuted Christians throughout the world
• Theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, 
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10–12  NKJV
And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:27
What to do about the Persecuted

• Pray for them
• Pray for their persecutors
• Gain perspective from their circumstances
• Gain faith and boldness from their circumstances
• Join them
Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,