

THE POSITIVE POWER OF PERSECUTION (Acts 4:1-31)

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV)

1. The REALITY of persecution

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. Acts 4:1-3 (NIV)

See also Mark 13:9-11

John 15:18-20

2 Timothy 3:12

2. The RESPONSE to persecution

A. Be _____.
(vv.5-7)

B. Be _____ with the _____.
(v. 8a)

C. Be _____ in seizing _____.
(vv. 8-13)

D. Be obedient to _____ at all _____.
(vv. 14-22)

E. Be committed to _____.
(v. 23)

F. Be _____.
(vv. 24-28)

G. Be _____ of greater _____.
(vv. 29-31)