

Blessed
Handling Opposition

Matthew 5:10

Pastor Brian

Matthew 5 ¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (NIV)*

2 Timothy 3 ¹² *In fact, anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others. (CEV)*

I. How do you handle opposition?

1. Don't be **surprised** by hostility.

1 Peter 4 ¹² *Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. (NLT)*

John 15 ¹⁸ *If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. (NIV)*

2. Don't be **ashamed** of your faith.

1 Peter 4 ¹⁶ *Don't be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God that you belong to him. (CEV)*

3. Don't be **afraid** of contention.

1 Peter 3 ¹⁴ *Even if you have to suffer for doing good things, God will bless you. So stop being afraid and don't worry about what people might do. ¹⁵ Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. (CEV)*

1 Peter 5 ⁹ *Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. (NLT)*

4. Don't seek **revenge** on those who attack you.

Romans 12 ¹⁷ *Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. (NLT)*

Matthew 5 ¹¹ *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NLT)*

5. Respond with a **blessing**, not a curse.

Luke 6 ²⁷ *But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. (NLT)*

Romans 12 ²¹ *Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good. (MSG)*