

THE PERSECUTION

PRECEPT

Hebrews 2:18

¹⁸ Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.

PROMISE

Forsaken; some of you may have felt it, and maybe you are feeling it today. Forsaken by the people you thought cared for you or by God with all the problems, pain, and suffering you are experiencing and you find yourself in the season of despair and distress. The good news is that you are not alone, Jesus himself experienced the same struggles you might be facing right now. Jesus experienced literal and bodily pains, emotional pain, relational pain, and physiological, social, financial, and spiritual pain. Jesus experienced pain even worse than us and He is telling us that he's been there, he knows the pain. What's more comforting is that Jesus didn't only say I know your pain, but He can help us. During pain and suffering, Jesus:

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP. Hebrews 26:38 says, "Then He said to them, 'My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here with Me.'" Jesus Himself, the Son of God, requested His friends to stay with Him while going through tough times in life. In times of pain and suffering don't isolate yourselves instead, surround yourself with people who genuinely care for you. Paul said in Galatians 6:2, "Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command." We are not designed to face pain alone, so stay connected with your Life Groups.

STAY CONNECTED WITH GOD. Matthew 26:38 tells us, "He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, 'My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.'" Be real with God, be honest with Him. The reality is that people will fail us, but God will never fail us. God does not desire formality. He desires honesty from you; a continuous honest conversation with you. Be ready to say "yes" to God. God knows what's best for you and the moment you understand that, you must be willing to say yes to Him no matter what. Even with the pain and suffering you are experiencing today, it is all part of His great plan for you. God can take away your pain and suffering in the blink of an eye, but He won't because it is to mold you to become a stronger and better person.

Jesus Himself experienced the worst of pain and suffering humans can experience. Whatever pain you are experiencing today, He knows, He cares, and He will help. Just keep the faith. John 16:33 says, "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Pain and suffering will continue while we are in this world but, as children of God, we have the Lord Jesus Christ, who has overcome them all.

PRACTICE

1. **Testing.** When you experience pains/troubles, how do you respond to God and the people around you?

2. **Connected.** Are you experiencing any troubles/problems right now, do you mind sharing it? And how can we encourage and pray for you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Life Groups

- Pray for the formation of more life groups in our church for God's glory.

II. Circles

- Pray for Manalo Couple as they continue to lead the youths and young professionals to God and His teachings

III. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo, Ico, and Imperial.

IV. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Oliveros, Fabregas, and Padilla.

V. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

VI. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo, and Torres.

VII. Church

- May each of us seek God and extend His love to our families and communities.