

## As you come to the Throne of Grace on behalf of The Persecuted Church, PRAY:

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\* *That believers will stand firm in their faith.*

(1 Peter 5:8-10)<sup>8</sup> Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your <sup>[b]</sup> brethren who are in the world. <sup>10</sup> After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

\* *That they will not be fearful but trust God.*

(Rev.2:10) <sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. <sup>[a]</sup> Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

\* *That they will not seek to retaliate, but entrust themselves to Him who judges justly*

(1 Peter 2:23) <sup>23</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

\* *That they will not repay evil for evil but will seek to live at peace with everyone.*

(Roman 12: 17-18)<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. <sup>[a]</sup> Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

\* *That they will not take revenge, but leave that completely with God.*

(Rom. 12:17-21)<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. <sup>[a]</sup> Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. <sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but <sup>[b]</sup> leave room for the wrath of *God*, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

\* *That they will be enabled to rejoice, even in suffering.*

(1 Peter 4:12-13)<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

\* *That they will forgive those who persecute them.*

Luke 23:34 <sup>34</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Col 3:13 <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

\* *That they will be able to actually love their enemies.*

(Matt. 5:43-44) <sup>43</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

\* *That they will bless those who have persecuted them.*

(Rom 12: 14,21) <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute <sup>[a]</sup>you; bless and do not curse.

\* *That they will persevere under tribulation.*

(Heb. 10:32-39) <sup>32</sup>But remember the former days, <sup>[a]</sup>when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, <sup>33</sup>partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. <sup>34</sup>For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup>For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive<sup>[b]</sup>what was promised.

<sup>37</sup>FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,

HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

<sup>38</sup>BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;

AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

<sup>39</sup>But <sup>[c]</sup>we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the <sup>[d]</sup>preserving of the soul.

\* *That they will trust God to enable them to proclaim the Gospel even while suffering.*

(2Tim 4:16-18) <sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might <sup>[a]</sup>be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion’s mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will <sup>[b]</sup>bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to <sup>[c]</sup>Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

\* *That they will keep their eyes on Jesus, persevere, and not grow weary or lose heart.*

(Heb. 12:1-3) Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup><sup>[a]</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the <sup>[b]</sup>author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary <sup>[c]</sup>and lose heart.

\* *That they will rely on the Lord's strength and not on their own.*

(2 Cor. 1:8-9) <sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in <sup>[a]</sup>Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; <sup>9</sup><sup>[b]</sup>indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;