

5 Ways to Pray for Persecuted Christians

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

1. Pray for those in the midst of persecution (Hebrews 13:3)

Global watchdog Open Doors reports that 322 Christians are killed every month for their faith while millions more suffer persecution on a routine basis. Please pray that these believers will not only stay committed to the call of Christ but also will respond in love to the evil shown by their aggressors. God's love will open doors for these believers to share the Gospel even more.

2. Pray for those who are doing the persecuting (Matthew 5:44)

Pray that God would open the eyes and soften the hearts of these individuals who bring unfathomable abuse upon Christians. Remember as you pray that God sent His Son for the whole world (John 3:16); He does not want anybody—even these individuals—to perish (Ezekiel 18:23).

3. Pray for the families and loved ones of those being persecuted (Hebrews 4:16)

Ask God to comfort families who many times do not receive updates about their loved one and are not allowed to visit, or it's simply not safe enough to do so.

Pray they, too, will remain faithful to the calling God has placed on their lives.

4. Pray that churches would rise up (Acts 4:23-35)

Support from the body of Christ is so critical. Whether we are giving up our time in prayer or our resources in physical support, the church must rally around those suffering for Christ. American Christians also should rattle the door of Washington by **writing their elected officials**. Remind them the persecution of Christians is a real issue that must be addressed.

5. Pray that world leaders would do all they can to fight this persecution (Psalm 2:10-11, ESV)

God makes it clear in His Word that leaders have a responsibility. Pray God would stir their hearts, and they would not only draft but enact the necessary policies and procedures to make a lasting, global difference.

Events

Today

VisionYouth Meeting at Hicks home 7:15 PM
7th/8th Youth Meeting at church 7:15 PM
2/4 College & Career Lunch 1 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm
919-563-9249 www.grbc.net

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GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

January 28, 2018

“I know
the plans I have for you,
plans for a **FUTURE**
and a **HOPE**”

JEREMIAH 29:11

Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Our God is an awesome God;

He reigns from Heaven above with wisdom, pow'r and love;

Our God is an awesome God.

(repeat)

Our God is an awesome God!

Our God is an awesome God!

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Pastor Stephen Byrd

Our God is an Awesome God

Scripture Reading

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

Preparatory

Lord, I come, I confess, bowing here, I find my rest.

Without You I fall apart. You're the One that guides my heart.

(Chorus) Lord, I need You, oh I need You. Every hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.

Where grace is found is where You are.

And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.

(Chorus)

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.

And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

(Chorus)

You're my one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.

Text and Music: Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill and Matt Maher
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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

The love of Christ is rich and free fixed on His own eternally

Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove long as He lives, His own He'll love

His loving heart engaged to be their everlasting Surety

Twas love that took their cause in hand

And love maintains it to the end

(Chorus) Love cannot from its post withdraw

Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law

Can turn the Surety's heart away

He'll love His own to endless day

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood

And love will bring them safe to God

Love calls them all from death to life

And love will finish all their strife

Pastor Charles Fortner

The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

He loves through every changing scene

Nor aught from Him can Zion wean

Not all the wanderings of her heart

Can make His love for her depart **(Chorus)**

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love

In endless bliss, His own shall prove

The blazing glory of that love

Which never could from them remove

Which never could from them remove

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Scripture Reading

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

I know the Lord is nigh and would but cannot pray

For Satan meets me when I try and frights my soul away

And frights my soul away

I would but can't repent though I endeavor oft

This stony heart can ne'er relent till Jesus makes it soft

Till Jesus makes it soft

(Chorus)

Help my unbelief

Help my unbelief

Help my unbelief

My help must come from thee

I would but cannot love though wooed by love divine

No arguments have power to move a soul as base as mine

A soul so base as mine

I would but cannot rest in God's most holy will

I know what He appoints is best and murmur at it still

I murmur at it still

(Chorus - Sing 2 times)

John Newton, Clint Wells
Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal #278

Preparatory

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;

When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.

I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;

For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

(Refrain) He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast.

For my Savior loves me so. He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;

Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;

Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. **(Refrain)**

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.

Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast;

'Til our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! **(Refrain 2x)**

Words: Ada Habershon (1861-1918) Music and additional words: Matt Merker , © 2013
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Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston