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SUFFERING

In my younger years I learned the power of the name of Jesus. I learned that healing was the children's bread. I learned that the words I spoke would determine what happened in my life. I learned faith, and I learned who the real enemy is.

What I did not learn was the suffering side of Christianity. If we take a look at scripture, we see that every saint in the New Testament suffered persecution. Many lost everything they had because they had to go into hiding. Some were stoned. Some were crucified, and many suffered the effects of those that opposed Christianity.

Much of the suffering came from "religious people" that hated that they might lose control over the Jewish population because of Christianity. There was much money in the hierarchy, and the scriptures tell us that the love of money is the root of all evil. The Jews thought Messiah would come and set up a kingdom. They did not look for a suffering Messiah.

Being a Christian is a death sentence. In 1 Corinthians 1:9-10 Paul says, ***"But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, (spiritual death) and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."***

Persecution, suffering, lack of food, lack of clothing, all were part of the daily walk of the New Testament saints, but they did not quit. They pressed through regardless of the suffering. They knew that they had to communicate the gospel to the lost and dying world, no matter if it cost them their lives.

Suffering will increase the closer we get to the Lord's return. Yes, there is a remnant that will stand strong through what is coming, but they will suffer severe persecution. Are you ready for the suffering? Are you strong in the Lord and the power of His might? If not, then there will be a rude awakening. Many will deny their faith because they thought that once they were saved everything would be easy. The exact opposite is true. Satan hates believers and will persecute them until he destroys them. Be prepared for war spiritually and naturally. It is coming sooner than you can imagine. Hold fast to your faith and be determined that no matter what you will stand for Jesus, even unto death.

Revelation 12:11 says, ***"And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, (salvation) and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."***

Death to the old life and alive to Christ. May you stand strong for Jesus.