



- Different isn't the goal, it lets us know we're going the right direction.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first... ^{20b} If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15:18, 20 (NIV)

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

- When you get in game, the enemy takes notice.

- Christianity is not a playground, it's a battle ground.

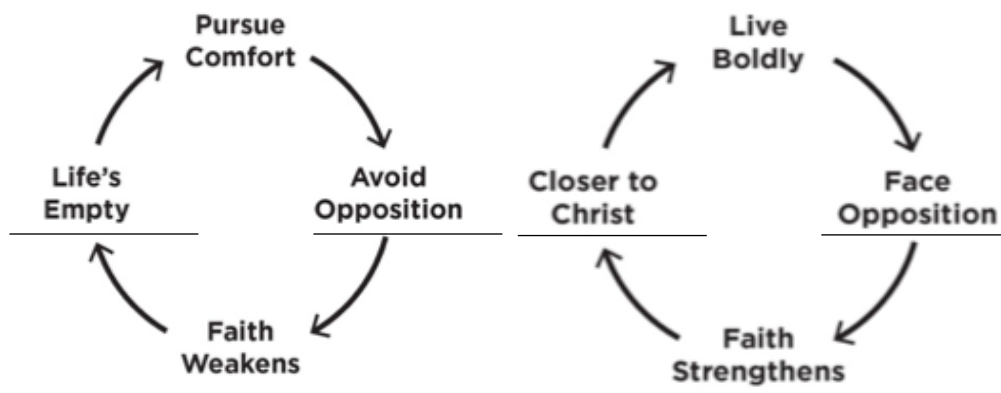
⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Opposition includes:

- Internal struggles.
- External Hostility.

¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 1 Peter 4:13 NLT

2 Cycles



- Persecution makes us partners with Christ.

¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. 1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)

A great principle:

- Do what is right and trust God with the results.

⁵ "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:5-7 (NLT)

¹⁰ ...So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. 1 Peter 5:10b (NLT)

Notes: _____

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:
These questions also work well for your personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from Sundays Talk? Explain.
- Has this series inspired you to be different? In what ways?
- When you read Jesus' words in John 15:18-20, how does that make you feel?
- Do you feel you receive any persecution for following Jesus? explain.
- Does it surprise you that many feel Christians are being persecuted more now than at any point in history?
- If you're not persecuted, it could be because you're not in the game. The enemy attacks those who are a threat to him. What makes us a threat to the enemy? Are you a threat to him?
- If we are really honest, which of the 2 cycles most reflects you? Explain.
- Read 1 Peter 4:12-13, when it says "be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering." Is that your perspective too? How is that different from the world?
- Do you find it difficult to "do what is right, and trust God with the results", even in trials?
- This might take some time. Read 1 Peter 4:13, 4:19, 5:5-7. and 5:10 - what are the things Peter lists that give us strength during persecution?
- Sum up, in your own words, how God wants you personally to be different?

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