



# When People Oppose Us

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## F U L F I L L M E N T

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*"Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you." 1 Peter 5:5-6*

*"For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but for you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and still are, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things." 1 Corinthians 4:9-13*

*"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy and you are that temple." 1 Corinthians 3:16-17*

*"Oh, to dwell above with saints we love - that will be wonder and glory. But to dwell below with the saints we know - now that is another story!"  
~ Author Unknown*

Illustration: When David was King of Israel and his son, Absalom, was leading a rebellion, a vocal enemy, Shimei, the son of Gera, began his mission to publicly humiliate David by continually cursing him. He even threw stones at David and all of David's servants, even at David's mighty men. He would chant, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! The Lord has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son, Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood." David's mighty men wanted to kill this "dead dog," Shimei, but David had a remarkable response, "If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' And again David said, 'Leave him alone and let him curse me, for the Lord has told him to. It may be the Lord will look on the wrong done to me, and the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today.'" What a man! What a kingdom leader! What an example for all of us. (Read 2 Samuel 16:5-14.)

"Christ-likeness"- responding like Christ when people mistreat us like Christ.

## A. Kingdom Principles to Learn When People Oppose Us

1. Opposition to us and our ministry is an opportunity to learn that our ministry and calling belong to God and He will fulfill it.  
*"He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it."* **1 Thessalonians 5:24**
2. Opposition always tests our character. Motives matter to God.  
*"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."* **Romans 5:3,4**
3. Opposition is an opportunity to fellowship with Christ in His sufferings.  
*"For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort, too."* **2**  
**Corinthians 1:5**
4. Opposition is an opportunity to get to know God as our Defender. He is bigger than our opposition.  
*"The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer, my God, in Whom I take refuge."* **Psalms 18:2**
5. Opposition gives us a unique opportunity to grow in true love.  
*"Add to your self-control, steadfastness, and to steadfastness, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly affection, and to brotherly affection, love. And if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* **2 Peter 1:6-8**
6. Opposition teaches us to fight, not against flesh and blood, but against our real enemy.  
*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* **Ephesians 6:12**
7. Opposition teaches us that the victory belongs to the Lord.  
*"You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your positions, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf...do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow, go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."* **2 Chronicles 20:17-18**  
  
*"And the Lord gave victory to David everywhere he went."* **2 Samuel 8:14**  
*"Victory belongs to the Lord."* **Proverbs 21:31**

## B. Action Steps When People Oppose Us

1. Give thanks to the Lord.  
*"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."* **Psalm 34:1**
2. Keep your heart in the love of God.  
*"Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever."* **2 Chronicles 20:21**
3. Relinquish your will and agenda to the Lord.  
*"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble."* **Proverbs 16:3,4**
4. Take your position in Christ—watch and pray.  
*"You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your positions, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf...do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow, go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."* **2 Chronicles 20:17-18**

5. Dare to pray this prayer—*“Lord Jesus, leave this opposition in my life for as long as You want, until all your purposes in me have been fulfilled.”*  
*“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*  
**Proverbs 16:7**
  
6. Enlist in the life-long school of endurance.  
*“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”* **Job 1:21**  
*“Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.”* **Job 13:15**  
*“Surely the wrath of man shall praise You.”* **Psalms 76:10**
  
7. Declare the protection of Christ.  
*“I love You, oh Lord, my Strength. The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer, my God, in Whom I take refuge, my Shield and Horn of my Salvation, my Stronghold. I call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised and I am safe from my enemies.”* **Psalms 18:1-3**
  
8. Memorize key Psalms. Every Psalm is a Christ-like response to life’s situations. Memorizing Psalms during times of opposition will help us become more Christ-like.  
**Psalms 34, 7, 13, 16, 46, 91, 23, 25, 27**
  
9. Bind the enemy. He comes to steal, kill and destroy during times of opposition. We want to take our stand against him.  
*“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* **James 4:7**
  
10. Declare Christ’s victory over your calling.  
*“Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.”* **Matthew 6:13 (Later manuscripts)**  
*“He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.”* **1 Thessalonians 5:24**

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