

Jesus See and Cares

Violence against Christians in Iraq is escalating. In recent weeks there have been numerous attacks, the worst of which left 68 Christ-worshipers dead on a Sunday morning. There are fewer Christians in Iraq today than there were ten years ago. The Roman Catholic Church claims nearly one million have fled since 2003.

John the Revelator wrote:

“Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the world.”

(Revelation 5:6)

Most of us have lived our lives away from the overt persecution that the Church has faced over the centuries and still faces today. Sure, we face subtle and covert pressure and ridicule, but most of us have never faced bodily harm or death because of our faith. Yet, many followers of Jesus suffer everyday—today!

John reminds us in the Revelation that Jesus sees and cares about His followers. He knows those who are facing ongoing attacks. Jesus knows who is enduring incessant ridicule. Our Lord knows those who suffer from subtle and sly attempts to silence their witness for Him.

The Holy Spirit goes into all places and knows all that is happening to Jesus' people. The Holy Spirit empowers us and encourages us. And the Spirit makes known to the Lord our challenges and problems, no matter where we live or what our persecution looks like.

Peter wrote:

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ.... If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” (1 Peter 4:12-14)

The Lord Jesus knows your situation. He sees you and cares for you. Your suffering connects you to the One who suffered for you. His Spirit is with you!

Prayer

Father, thank you for sending Jesus to save me. Thank you for sending the Spirit to empower me and to be your presence within me. I trust that the Holy Spirit knows my circumstances and communicates my concerns with sighs too deep for words. Encourage me, Father, as my suffering connects me to Jesus who suffered for me. In my Savior's name and through His Spirit in me I pray, Amen.

Scott