

2 Tim 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

When you decide to live a Godly life, you will, not maybe, but WILL be persecuted. It's not an option.

I really love the car that the Lord gave me eight years ago. My old car had over 200,000 miles on it and was getting tired. So, when I went car shopping, I knew just what I wanted. It wasn't a big fancy expensive car, nor was it a little sports car. I was thinking economical, able to hold my music equipment or my kids when I picked them up. I still remember the day when I bought it. It was a brand new 2008 Honda and was exactly what I wanted. It had everything, so there were no additional options that I needed to get for it.

But when we become Christians, we don't truly understand the entire package and tend to think that some of the things that we go through are optional, like being persecuted. If someone makes fun of us or give us a hard time because we are Christian's, we think we are being persecuted and tend to think, *"Hey, I didn't sign up for this. I just thought those missionary types of Christians where the only ones that got persecuted."*

Two things; that is not persecution, that's rejection. Second, we are all called to be missionaries of the gospel. Real persecution is when you face torture or even death for your faith. People in third world countries where Christianity is not a popular or the main religion expect persecution as a Christian, so they are not shocked when their own family or town is out to kill them, and they have to hide or run for their lives, literally. They understand the cost of being a Christian.

So, what's been going on in your life lately that maybe you are thinking, *"Hey, I didn't sign up for this."?*

Maybe it's time to read the instruction manual (the bible) and see what you did sign up for. After you do and you are thinking, I don't want go through that stuff. Then maybe you do not desire a relationship with Jesus, but rather you just want to stay out of hell. Or maybe you are like the rest of us, who just don't want to suffer such things, but you are willing to for the sake of the gospel.

Some people get married because they think the rest of their lives they will have these puppy dog feelings of love and all the sex they want for the rest of their lives. But soon they find out that marriage is way so much more than puppy dog feelings of love and that those feelings soon go away, and that sex will not hold the marriage together. They think that they didn't sign up for the arguing and trials

and bills and not getting their own way all the time and everything else that goes along with being married.

So when you signed up for this thing called Christianity, you signed up not only to be saved from going to hell, but also to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and experience all that He did as well.

† **John 15:20** *Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

But also remember that tough things are not the only things we will experience, but also the cool fun things as well.

† **John 1:50** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."*

† **John 14:12** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

† **1 Peter 1:6-9** *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*