



FORGOTTEN SAYINGS

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“Blessed are
the
persecuted!”



Persecution: is Inevitable

John 15:18, 20

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.



Christians are persecuted

i. because they no longer belong

John 15:19

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.



Christians are persecuted

ii. because they belong to Jesus

John 15:20-21

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.



Christians are persecuted

iii. because truth exposes evil

John 15:22

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.



Christians are persecuted

iv. because of this world's rulers

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the powers of this dark world and
against the spiritual forces of evil in the
heavenly realms.



Blessed in persecution

i. by Christ's supremacy

John 15:25

But this is to fulfil what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

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Blessed in persecution

ii. by Christ's acceptance

John 15:19

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.



Blessed in persecution

iii. by Christ's honour

John 15:21

They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.



Blessed in persecution

iv. by Christ's testimony

John 15:24

If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.



Blessed in persecution v. by Christ's presence

John 15:26

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father - the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father - he will testify about me.



Blessed in persecution

vi. by Christ's growth in the world

Acts 8:1, 4

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria ...

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.



Blessed in persecution

vii. by Christ's growth in us

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.



Blessed in persecution

viii. by Christ's power displayed

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness' ... That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



Blessed in persecution

v. by Christ's promise

1 Corinthians 2:9

What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived'-
the things God has prepared for those who
love him -

But does it work?



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http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/india_160202.php



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“God is
blessing me
in countless
ways!”



<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/disaster-relief/relief-for-displaced-iraqis/joy-amid-persecution/>

“Therefore, I
am not sad,
You are the
loser. I am
happy. I
forgive you.”

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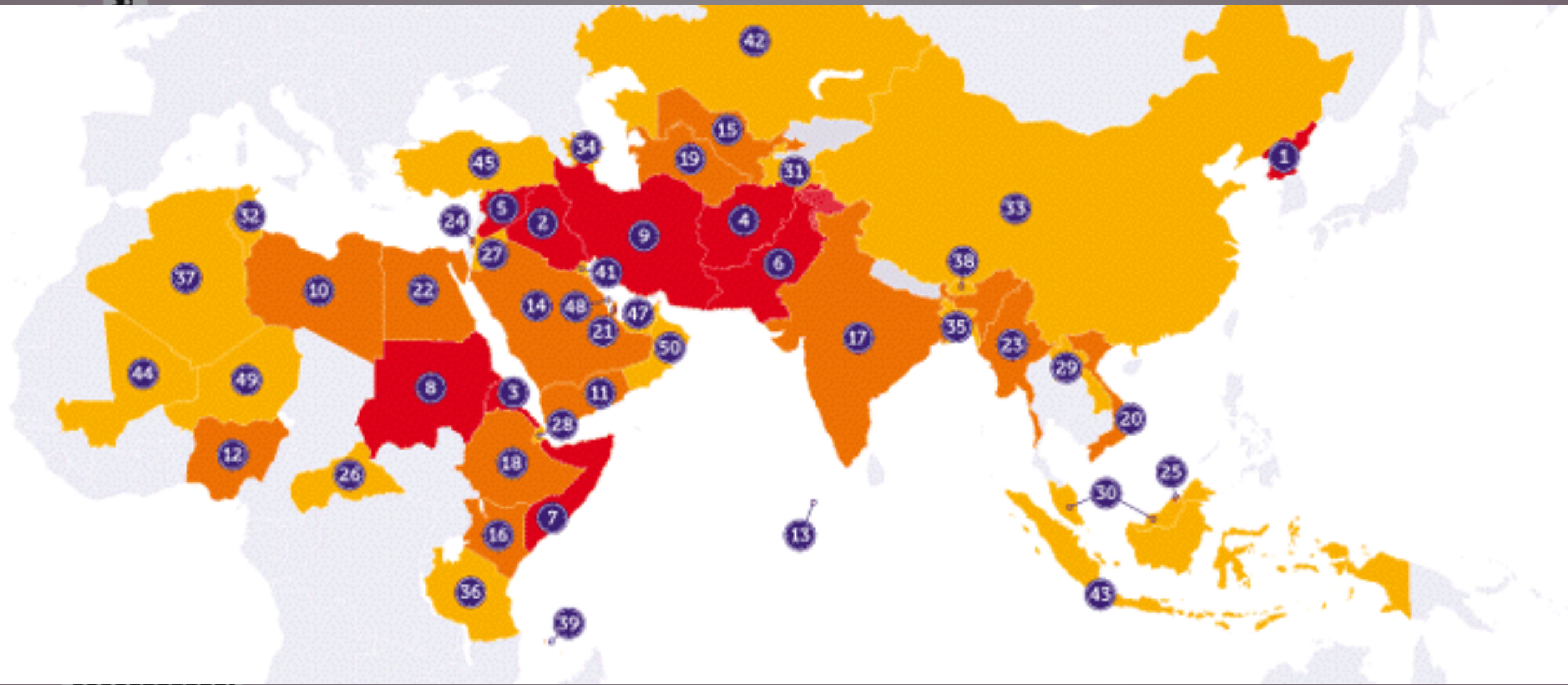
Respond

1. Get involved with the worldwide church
2. When stepping out seems hard, step into the blessing



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Top 50 countries where most difficult to be a Christian





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