

IDOP 2023

BIBLE STUDIES

UNBREAKABLE FAITH: STANDING STRONG IN PERSECUTION

INTRODUCTION:

This is a two-part Bible study series on "Unbreakable Faith: Standing Strong in Persecution." The first session will delve into 2 Corinthians 7-9 and explore how the Apostle Paul encourages believers to endure persecution with unshakable faith. In the second and final part, the session will focus on 2 Corinthians 10-12, exploring how the Apostle Paul demonstrates the transforming power of Christ in the midst of persecution.

SESSION 1

PERSEVERING THROUGH PERSECUTION

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-9

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

Unwavering Treasure (2 Corinthians 4:7)

Discuss the analogy of "treasure in jars of clay." What does it mean in the context of our faith?

How can understanding that God's power resides in us help us face persecution with courage?

Hard Pressed but Not Crushed (2 Corinthians 4:8)

Share examples of times when you felt "hard-pressed" or faced difficulties as a Christian. How did you respond?

What biblical principles can help us endure challenges without being crushed by them?

Perplexed but Not in Despair (2 Corinthians 4:8)

Talk about moments when you felt confused or uncertain about your faith due to persecution or challenges.

How can we cultivate hope and avoid falling into despair during times of confusion or doubt?

Persecuted but Not Abandoned (2 Corinthians 4:9)

Discuss the reality of persecution faced by Christians worldwide, especially on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Refer IDOP 2023 Prayer guide for more information on Christian persecution.

How can knowing that God stands with us during persecution provide comfort and strength?

SESSION 2

REJOICING IN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST



2 CORINTHIANS 4:10-12

"We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you."

The Death and Life of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:10)

Explain the concept of "carrying around the death of Jesus" in our bodies. How does it relate to persecution?

How can our willingness to endure suffering for Christ reveal His life in us to others?

Hard Pressed but Not Crushed (2 Corinthians 4:8)

Discuss the idea of being "given over to death" for the sake of Christ. What does this mean in the context of our modern lives?

How can embracing suffering and sacrifice for Christ's sake impact our faith and witness to others?

The Paradox of Death and Life (2 Corinthians 4:12)

Explore the paradox that Paul presents in verse 12: "death is at work in us, but life is at work in you." How can this be understood in the context of persecution?

Share stories of Christians who have experienced persecution but remained steadfast in their

faith, becoming a powerful witness to others.

Rejoicing in Suffering (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Read and discuss Paul's perspective on suffering in 2 Corinthians 12:10.

How can we develop a mindset that rejoices in suffering for Christ's sake, understanding that His power is made perfect in our weaknesses?

CONCLUSION:

As we conclude this two-part Bible study series let us pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, and may their unwavering commitment to Christ inspire us to stand strong in the face of challenges and persecution.

**STRUCK
DOWN
BUT NOT
DESTROYED**

ORGANISED BY THE WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE, THE IDOP IS AN ANNUAL, GLOBAL EVENT THAT UNITES CHRISTIANS IN PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.

idop |  **WEA**
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH | WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE