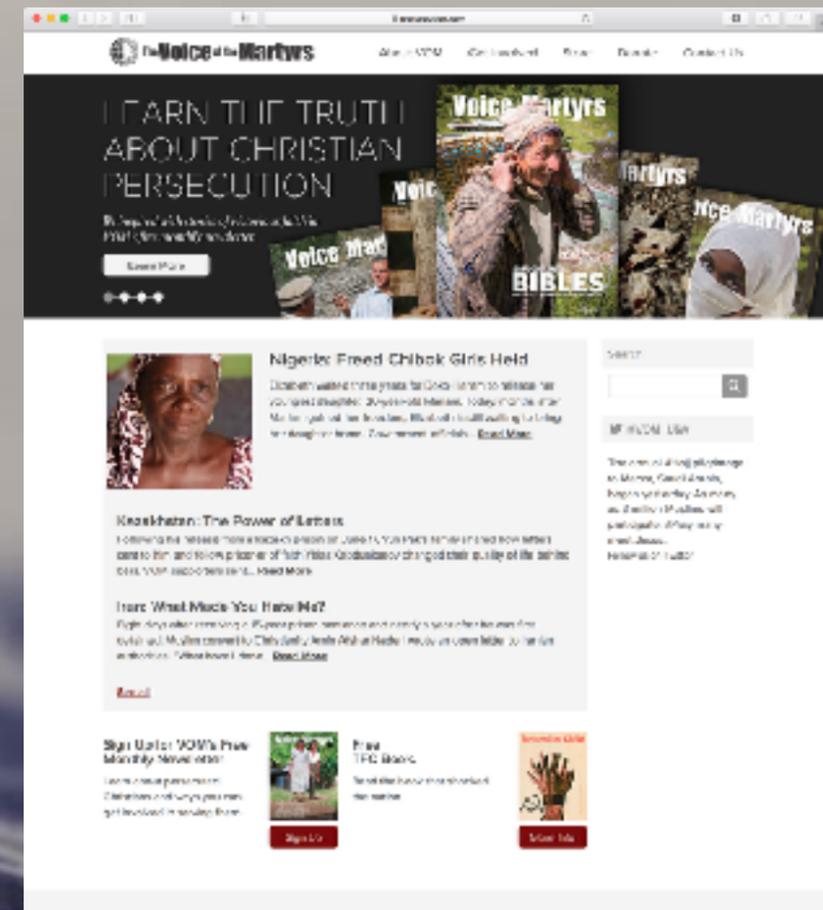
An aerial photograph of a city, showing a dense residential area with many houses and trees. A multi-lane highway runs through the city, with several cars visible. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall tone of the image is somewhat muted and overcast.

*We must be doing it wrong*

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people insult you,  
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.  
<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same  
way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Matthew 5:10-12

WE MUST  
BE DOING IT  
WRONG...



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Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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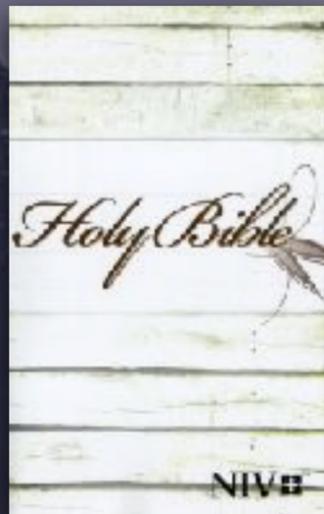
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- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

*In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, - **2 Timothy 3:12***

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**Matthew 5:10-12**

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# I. Reactions To Persecution And Jesus

A. Walk Away-ers

B. Fanatics



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***Matthew 5:10-12***



# I. Reactions To Persecution And Jesus

A. Walk Away-ers

B. Fanatics

C. Pretenders



The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world...

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world.

***Dietrich Bonhoeffer***



Everywhere I go in the West, I tell Christians that they must re-fall in love with Jesus. Christianity in the West says that we must have bigger cars, bigger houses, a better job. Once Christians fall out of love with all of that, and fall in love with Jesus, I won't need to talk about world missions. People will become missionaries because they love him.

***Helen Roseveare***



# I. Reactions To Persecution And Jesus

A. Walk Away-ers

B. Fanatics

C. Pretenders

D. Celebrators



<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

***Matthew 5:12***



## II. Meaningful Persecution Is Hard To Understand

A. Where does persecution for righteousness/Jesus come from?



It's Jesus who is our model, and Jesus' model is this: The more God's glory is shining out in your life, the more you will both attract and repel people. If nobody is reacting either way, there is not much of Christ showing forth in you. If nobody is being attracted in because of your unusual love or being repelled because of your holiness, then there is not much going on in there.

If you're always persecuted, you're probably an obnoxious person, but if you're never being persecuted you're probably a coward. ...

Don't you see that Christians, by just living a godly life, are going to upset people?

***Timothy Keller***



## II. Meaningful Persecution Is Hard To Understand

- A. Where does persecution for righteousness/Jesus come from?
- B. What does persecution for righteousness/Jesus look like?

~~success~~

~~respect~~

~~friendship~~

### III. Persecution Is A Doorway



<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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***Matthew 5:10-12***



### III. Persecution Is A Doorway

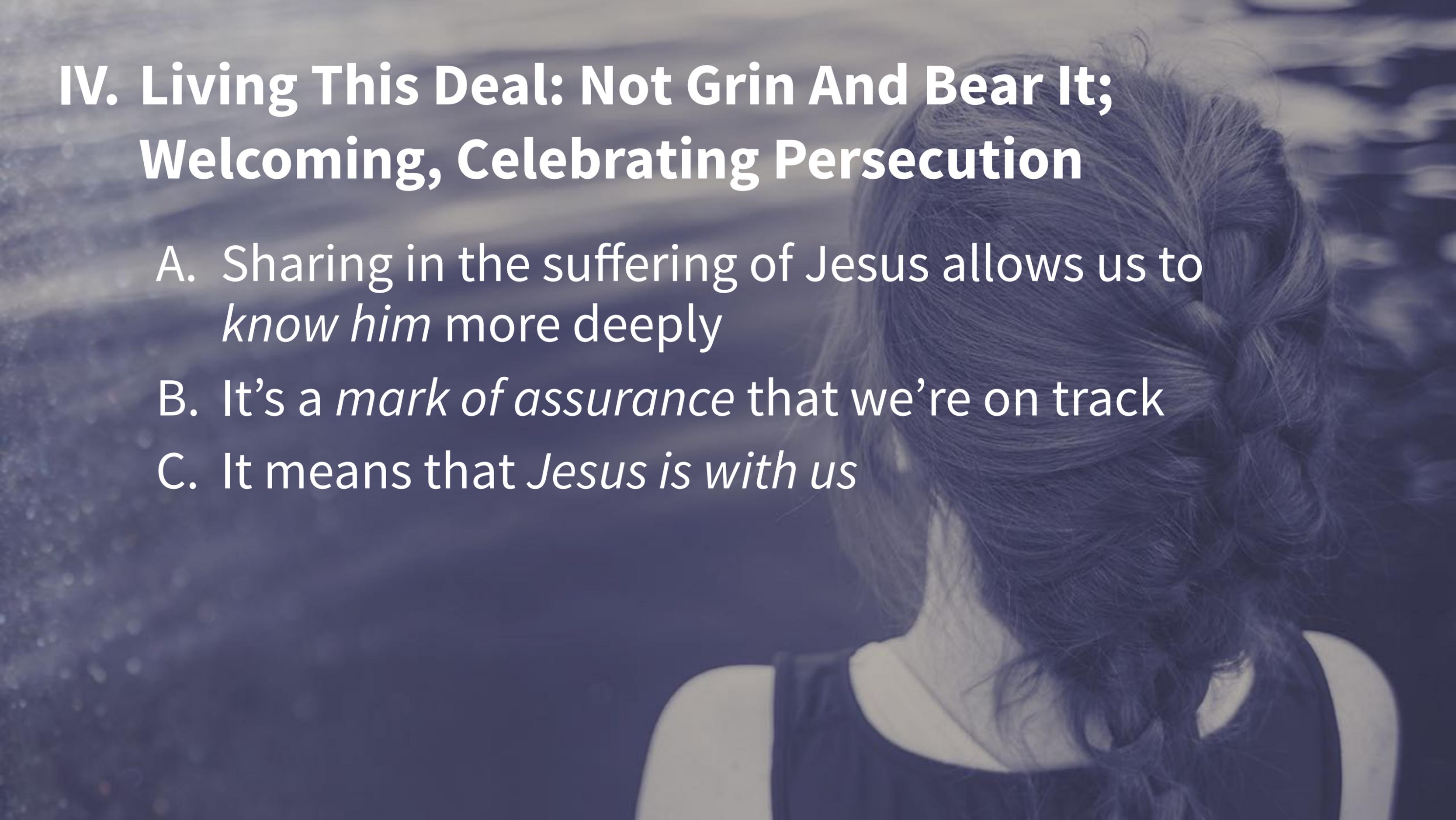
- A. Jesus' persecution on the cross:  
is our doorway to Heaven
- B. Our persecution because of Jesus:  
is a doorway to taste Heaven now



<sup>40b</sup>They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup>Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

**Acts 5:40b-42**





## IV. Living This Deal: Not Grin And Bear It; Welcoming, Celebrating Persecution

- A. Sharing in the suffering of Jesus allows us to *know him* more deeply
- B. It's a *mark of assurance* that we're on track
- C. It means that *Jesus is with us*

# THE GOOD LIFE

*Persecution: Hidden Doorway to Heaven*

