

## Discussion Questions for Sunday, February 22, 2015

1. Why should Christians expect suffering for their faith in Christ? (Sample answer: What Jesus said in places like John 15:18-25; 2 Tim. 3:12, etc.)
2. Why are we to not think of persecution as a strange foreign thing, and why should we be surprised if it doesn't come? What do you make of the shockingly violent persecutions of Christians over the centuries even up to the present day, and the relative lack of physical persecutions of Christians in the West?
3. Discuss the counterintuitive nature of expecting suffering and rejoicing in suffering. How is this only possible through Jesus Christ?
4. How does rejoicing in fiery trials strengthen our faith and hope?
5. Discuss the following comment: "Suffering as a Christian is not a foreign alien thing. It's the normal Christian life. We are foreign aliens to this world; and it to us."
6. Discuss the difference between God's discipline of believers (Heb. 12:3-17) and persecution for our faith.
7. What details do you remember of the stories shared of third century martyrs such as Perpetua and Felicitas and Afra of Augsburg? Why are such stories so captivating?
8. Visit [persecution.com](http://persecution.com) or [icommittoprayer.com](http://icommittoprayer.com) and spend some time praying for the persecuted church.