

# Persecuted

Dr. Jeff Bucknam | Acts 8:1–3

1. How do people react when they find out you're a Christian? Has the reaction of people who find that out changed over the years? Do you feel like you are pretty open about your faith in Christ or do you keep it a little quieter? Why?

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2. What kinds of persecution have you faced in your life? What is the worst you've heard of that someone you know has experienced?

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3. How have persecution and suffering been "clarifying" in your life when it comes to your commitment to Christ? Have they served to help or hurt your trust in God? Why?

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4. Why do we tend to think persecution and suffering are "abnormal" for Christians? How do you expect persecution and suffering to come your way while still remaining positive and hopeful?

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5. How does Acts 8:1 fulfill the promise in Acts 1:8? Is the way God fulfills his promise surprising to you? Why or why not?

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6. What can help us surrender to God's will in our lives better? What practices can we put into place that help us accept God's providence regardless of what it looks like?

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Passages cited in the sermon: Acts 8:1-3, 4. John 15:18-20. 1 Peter 4:12-14. 2 Timothy 4:9-10. Mark 4:16-17. Acts 1:8.