

Reading: Rev 2:8-11; 3:7-13;

***“Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t be silent! For I am with you” (Acts 18:9,10a)***

Satan will not ignore any genuine work of the Kingdom. He will fight it tooth and nail, because any gains to the Kingdom of God is loss to his own kingdom. Here are some general guidelines we can learn from the early Church to handle opposition in the ministry—

⌘ Never get angry with the hearers of the Gospel who oppose the message. They are simply victims of the Enemy. “The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel... should shine on them” (2 Cor 4:4). Keep proclaiming the Gospel again and again faithfully and prayerfully. The Gospel is the power of God that commands on the hearers, “Let there be light!”

⌘ Pray for a mighty manifestation of God’s power which will silence the opposers (Acts 4:14). The prayer of the early Christians recorded in Acts 4:24-29 is a model prayer worth memorizing. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a banner against him on behalf of God’s army (Isa 59:19b).

⌘ Remind yourself frequently as to wherefrom you have received authority to preach the Gospel. Here’s Christ’s Great Commission: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore!” (Mt 28:18,19). We cannot stop or return unless He orders so! Paul wrote to Timothy: “I charge you before God: Preach the Word!” (2 Tim 4:1,2). When the authorities strictly warned the apostles not to preach the Gospel, they answered, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge!” (Acts 4:18,19). The Church always needs men like Brother Andrew (1928-), who “smuggled” millions of Bibles into the Communist world because he decided to obey God rather than men, and dared to face the consequences!



⌘ Don’t be afraid! It is only natural to fear threats. But this fear can be overcome if you keep in mind the following facts: You will not die before God’s appointed time; People can kill your body but cannot touch your soul; Blessed are you when you are persecuted for the Name of Christ; Anyone who touches you touches the apple of God’s eye; If you have to die for the cause of the Kingdom, it is the responsibility of the Heavenly Father to take care of your family; Great will be your reward in Heaven for all that you suffer. These were the thoughts which made the persecuted disciples dance with joy (Acts 13:49-52). The devil was put to shame! God laughed!

**OCTOBER 20**

**PRAYER**

**Subject: Satan**

*Reading: Rev 2:8-11; 3:7-13*

*Memorising: Acts 18:9,10a*

Almighty God, we worship You as our Redeemer. We worship you as the Lord of Heaven and Earth. We worship You as the Lord of the Armies. We worship You as El-shaddai, because all authority and power belong to You. We worship you as Jehovah-Nissi, because You are the One who raises the banner of victory in all the battles we face. The battle is not ours, but Yours, O Lord. Who can stand before Your Omnipotence, O God?

Father God, we thank You for calling us out of darkness into Your marvellous light. Thank You for saving us through the vicarious death and the victorious resurrection of Your Son. He has recruited us as Soldiers of the Cross and the Messengers of the Gospel. Thank You for the authority He has given us to preach the message of Salvation all over the world. He has promised us His ever-abiding presence with us. Thank You, O God, for the Holy Spirit who has given us power to be bold witnesses for Jesus. Thank You for the joy He fills us with in distressing and threatening situations.

Dear Lord, we come to You for the growing opposition and intensifying persecution we face all over the world for the propagation of the Gospel. Satan is all out to destroy our work. He is more furious than ever because he is losing men and women from his kingdom in growing numbers. Help us, Lord, not to lose our patience and get angry with the opposers. Grant us the angelic joy that Stephen had while being stoned. Help us stay pleasant in all situations.

Dear Lord, we remember the promise of Christ about the signs that would follow those who believe. Manifest Your power even greater than ever to silence the opposers. Are You not the God of Moses? We need Your miracles in our land of Egypt. Are You not the God of Elijah? We need Your fire before the prophets of Baal. Are You not the God of Daniel? We need Your miracle deliverance in our city of Babylon. Are You not the God of Peter and Paul? We need Your miracles before false religionists and ignorant pagans. Do it, Lord!

O Lord of the Harvest, we pray for the Missionaries who have gone to regions beyond carrying Your message. With the promulgation of Anti-conversion Bill in the Indian States one after the other, persecution is on the steep rise. Embolden Your servants, O Lord! Empower them afresh to face the new challenges! Envelope them with Your protecting presence! Exhibit Your power more than ever! Enlarge our territories! Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever and ever. Amen!

*(Isa 43:1,3; Mt 6:13; 11:25; 28:19,20; Ex 15:1,2,3; 17:15,16; 1 Pet 2:9; Acts 1:8; 4:9,10,29,30; 6:15; 7:55,56; 14:9-11; Rev 12:12; Mk 16:17-18; 1 Ki 18:38,39; Dan 6:21,22,27; Lk 10:2)*