

## DAY 10. — THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

*"For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*

1 PETER 3:17-18

While in Ghana with World Vision, a Northview team heard the story of a woman who converted from Islam to Christianity through the work of World Vision. When her family learned of her new faith, they locked her in her room, beat her consistently, and refused to let her leave. When the local pastors heard this, they were determined to help their new sister in the faith, and they found a way to free her and give her a new family. She told them she was so grateful to finally feel human again.

This is not a unique story in our world. Millions of Christians face persecution or fear of persecution every day for simply having the faith to say, "I believe in Jesus Christ." We, as the body of Christ, are called to pray for the persecuted Church. It's time to care about our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted.

### PRAYER:

*Father, we in America do not understand the fight that millions of Christians face daily for their faith. We are sorry for keeping our Christian brothers and sisters at a distance emotionally. The reality of our world can overwhelm us at times. Help us to step into their stories today by praying for them. God, give those who are being persecuted an endurance of faith. I pray they do not falter on what they know to be true. Help them to stand firm in the face of fear. Let their story be a testimony of glory that leads to many more believing in you. And give those being persecuted a way out. Do a miracle right now in their situation that frees them from the attacks. We know that you use persecution to spread your name. So, we pray that every story of persecution leads to a greater spreading of the gospel.*