

# SUFFERING FOR THE GOOD NEWS

The Foundational Faith

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# SUFFERING FOR THE GOOD NEWS

Praise God, the Lord of all, and peace to all sons and daughters of Adam.

This paper in your gracious hands is to clarify that all experience numerous sufferings and suffering wears out the body but leaves it alive, but at the same time dead - cut off from hope. There are two types of suffering.

The first kind of suffering is from our concern over this earthly life and following after desires so much so that we forget God. Therefore, we forget ourselves and we don't know anything but ourselves and we are in a hole of fire, biting our fingertips from regret, waiting for death, after we have had our chance to enjoy this life.

The second kind of suffering comes from spreading the Good News, the news which gives the body freedom. The body had been dead, but the Good News gives it life. The body had been in darkness, but the Good News gives light. The Good News makes free forever, even though some people are not happy with the news because it exposes their sin, greed and hate. But some of the others rejoice, praising God, glorifying and worshiping Him. Though this news exposes them to pain, suffering and torture, they rejoice and glorify God and thank Him. Maybe you ask yourself, 'Why?' 'How?' 'When?' I invite you to continue reading and I leave you in the presence of God and His guidance as you read.

## CHRIST

Christ said to His followers, "***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for they have a reward in the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely because you follow me, rejoice and make it obvious because your reward is great in heaven. They persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.***" (Matthew 5:10-12) (scripture translation from Al-Injil Al-Sharif, an equivalent reading for the Word of God) And similarly in Luke, "***Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject you as evil because you follow the one who became flesh as if he were shameful. Rejoice in that day, and shout for joy, because your reward is great in heaven. Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.***" (Luke 6:22-23) We are blessed when we are persecuted because of our faith in Christ. And God's command is that we rejoice and make our rejoicing obvious.

Christ said to His disciples who were with Him, ***“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves, so be wary as serpents, and innocent as doves. Beware of people, because they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues. And you will be brought before governors and kings because of me, as a witness to them and the foreigners. Whenever they hand you over for trial, do not worry about how to speak or what to say, for what you should say will be given to you at that time. For it is not you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Whenever they persecute you in one place, flee to another. A disciple is not greater than his teacher, nor a slave greater than his master. It is enough for the disciple to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house 'Beelzebul,' how much more will they defame the members of his household! Do not be afraid of them, for nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing is secret that will not be made known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*** (Matthew 10:16-28) (see also Mark 13:9-13)

In other words, Christ is saying “Because you believe in Me you will experience persecution. But be wary and wise and walk according to the Spirit of God who directs you. Maybe you will experience the worst troubles from those close to you. The people who hate me will hate you and when you experience cruelty or struggle, move to another place and continue inviting people to the Glad News. Expect evil from others because of me but be faithful to the end and do not fear people, but fear God.”

The Good News sometimes separates close relations and Christ said, ***“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever wants to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life on my behalf will find it.”*** (Matthew 10:37-39) (see also Luke 14:26) Expect to lose earthly relations.

By inspiration from God Saint Matthew recorded another time in his gospel record. ***“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life loses it. But whoever loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel will find it. For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Or what can a person give to save his life?’”*** (Matthew 16:24-26) (see also Luke 14:27)

And also in Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Luke, it is also recorded. ***“Then Jesus called the crowd, along with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. For what benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? What can a person give to save his life?’”*** (Mark 8:34-37) (see also Luke 9:23-25) Expect to die for your faith in Christ.

And another verse on possessions and relatives, ***“Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth, there is no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive in this age a hundred times as much — homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, fields, all with persecutions — and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.’”*** (Mark 10:29-31) Expect to lose earthly possessions and relationships. But in the end you receive the blessing of eternal life.

And Christ also encourages us and commands this, ***“Nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing is secret that will not be made known. So then whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms will be proclaimed from the housetops. “I tell you, my dear friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more they can do. But I will warn you whom you should fear: Fear the one who, after he kills the body, has ability to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. In fact, even the hairs on your head are all numbered. Do not be afraid; you are more valuable than many sparrows. “I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the One who became flesh will also acknowledge before God's angels. But the one who denies me before men will be denied before God's angels. And everyone who speaks a word against the One who became flesh will be forgiven, but the person who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. But when they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you should make your defense or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you must say.”*** (Luke 12:2-12) The text says that we are not to fear people but fear God. God is greatly concerned with you. Testify of the truth of Christ boldly. Listen and obey the Holy Spirit as you speak and behave.

Since Christ was hated, expect to be hated. ***“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you do not belong to the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you. Remember what I told you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”*** (John 15:18-20)

And also, some people who kill you will think they are pleasing God by killing you. ***“They will put you out of the place of worship. Actually, a time is coming when the one who kills you will think he is offering service to God.”*** (John 16:2)

## ENCOURAGEMENT FROM CHRIST

So, as believers in Christ, when we are persecuted and hated because of our faith in Christ remember the following:

- We are blessed and have a reward in heaven.
- God cares greatly for you.
- Expect to lose your earthly possessions.
- Expect to lose your close relationships, even being betrayed by them.
- Expect to be last place.

- Expect to be hated among people who hated Christ.
- Expect that some people will think that killing you is a command from God.

Christ says that we are to expect persecution and death yet we rejoice and obey to the end fearing God.

## PAUL

Did the apostle Paul command as Christ commanded? Let us read and observe the truth from Paul who wrote by inspiration from God.

Acts –

Ananias obeyed God even at the risk of persecution. He brought the message from God to Paul when Paul first believed in Christ. And a portion of the message was that Paul would suffer for his faith in Christ (see Acts 9:16).

Paul rejoiced in persecution because of the Good News (see Acts 8:1, Acts 11:19-20, and Acts 13:50-52). Paul and Silas rejoiced and praised God while in prison after being beaten unjustly (see Acts 16:16-25).

Paul said, ***“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem without knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit warns me in every town that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not consider my life worth anything, but the important thing is that I may finish my task and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, which is to testify to the good news of God's grace.”*** (Acts 20:22-24). Paul considered the news of the Gospel was more important than the danger upon his life despite the difficulties because of it.

Romans –

***“Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory. Not only this, but we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at God's choice of time, Christ died for the ungodly. For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by Christ's blood who gave Himself for us, we will surely be saved through him from God's wrath.”*** (Romans 5:1-9) Paul rejoices in his suffering for the Gospel because he knows suffering teaches him patience and patience creates victory in work and the victory raises hope.

***“The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God's children. And if children, then heirs in the blessings of God, i.e. we share in Christ's inheritance. Yet we must suffer with Him here so we may also be glorified with him there. For I consider that our sufferings in this world is nothing compared to the glory that God will revealed to us.”*** (Romans 8:16-18) We have been joined with Christ by faith and we have joined Him in His death and resurrection (see Romans chapters 5 through 8). So, we join in His suffering and join in His glory in the end.

***“Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, be hospitable to strangers. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse.”*** (Romans 12:12-14) Endure suffering. Bless those who persecute you and do not curse them.

Corinthians –

***“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that the extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are experiencing trouble on every side, but are not crushed; we are perplexed, but not driven to despair; we are persecuted, but not abandoned; we are knocked down, but not destroyed, always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our body. For we who are alive are constantly being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal body. As a result, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. But since we have the same spirit of faith as that shown in what has been written, "I believed; therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak. We do so because we know that God who raised up Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will bring us with you into his presence. For all these things are for your sake, so that the grace of God that is including more and more people may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God. Therefore we do not despair, but even if our physical body is wearing away, but inside we are being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:7-18) We are not able to complete the works of God which are done in us, but Christ is the one who does them in us. Difficulties in the world are temporary compared to eternity and they are easy compared to Hell, which is where we would go since the wrath of God is on us if we do not have a mediator.

Philippians –

***“More than that, I now regard all things as liabilities compared to the far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things — indeed, I regard them as dung! — that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness — a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness. My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings, and to be like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*** (Philippians 3:8-11) Paul knew that nothing is more valuable than faith in Christ even to face death. We have been made righteous in Christ who completed the work of God

faithfully by His suffering to death and while presenting Himself as a sacrifice then rose from the dead alive forever. We join Him in His suffering and death and we raise with Him to new life.

Thessalonians –

The Thessalonians suffered a great affliction with Paul when they believed the Gospel (1 Thessalonians 1:6). Paul said **“although we suffered earlier and were mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of much opposition.”** (1 Thessalonians 2:2) Paul was not scared by persecution for preaching the Gospel.

Timothy –

Paul said to Timothy, **“do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me, a prisoner for his sake, but trust in God power, and accept your share of suffering for the gospel.”** (2 Timothy 1:8) And Paul commanded Timothy to accept suffering for the sake of the Good News, the amount of suffering that God gives him. **“Take your part in suffering, as a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus.”** (2 Timothy 2:3) So, like Timothy, we should accept and withstand suffering for the sake of the Good News.

And also he said, **“Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David; such is the gospel, for which I suffer hardship to the point of imprisonment as a criminal, but God's message is not imprisoned! So I endure all things for the sake of those chosen by God, that they too may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus and its eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we died with him, we will also live with him. If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us.”** (2 Timothy 2:8-12). And he said, **“Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”** (2 Timothy 3:12) Paul expected to suffer but his hope in heaven made him continue in service for the Gospel. If we believed we become with Christ because we have died with Him by faith and we will raise to new life in the end.

## SUMMARY OF PAUL'S THOUGHTS

Paul:

- expected to suffer for the sake of the Good News.
- considered suffering of no value compared to the hope of God and the spreading the Gospel.
- knew that suffering was his hope in eternal life.
- knew that suffering was temporal and preached bravely and without fear.
- was ready to suffer hunger and financial loss in order not to hinder the Gospel.

Paul received suffering on the basis that he died with Christ and rose with Him by faith and lives a new life in Christ. And by the same faith, you dear reader, do you receive the new life in Christ? You have died with Him by faith and been raised with Him. It is not you who live, but Christ lives in you.

Serve the Lord even if you face death which is not anything because you have something valuable, eternal life in Christ. You have died but you live in Christ. Paul said **“I have been**

***crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***” (Galatians 2:20)

Dear reader, preach the Gospel with all clarity and boldness even if it costs you your life. And rejoice when you suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

## SAMPLES FROM OTHER APOSTLES

Some of the other apostles suffered for spreading the Good News.

Acts -

As an example, Stephen forgave his killers. ***“Then he fell to his knees and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them!’ When he had said this, he died.”*** (Acts 7:60)  
One among the perpetrators was Saul who became a believer and God changed his name to Paul the apostle.

James -

***“My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.”*** James 1:2-4

***“My brothers, take the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering ill, and of patience. We say about those that are patient ‘They are Blessed.’ You have heard of the patience of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is full of pity and of tender mercy.”*** James 5:10-11

Rejoice in trials, for they are a test which produces endurance. When passed it produces patience and perfection like the prophets who suffered and were patient and were blessed for it.

Peter -

The high priest was riled to anger against the believers. ***“Now the high priest rose up, and all those with him (that is, the religious party of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, “Go and stand in the house of God and proclaim to the people all the words of this new life.” They obeyed what he said and entered the house of God at daybreak and began teaching.”*** (Acts 5:17-21)

Peter and the disciples were arrested and put in prison but they were released by the power of God and continued preaching the news of Christ. Then they were arrested again and they ***“summoned the apostles and had them beaten. Then they ordered them not to speak in the***



***name of Jesus and released them. So they left the council rejoicing because they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. And every day both in the temple courts and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus was the Christ.” (Acts 5:40-42)***

Peter praised God in suffering for Christ. He continued to preach and proclaim Christ even though he the human leaders told him it was illegal. He obeyed God and did not fear people. And Peter said in his book: ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by God's power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials. Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold — gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away — and will bring praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, because you are attaining the goal of your faith — the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:3-9)***

You, like Peter, have been raised with Christ to live a new life in Him. You will suffer trials, but you will succeed in eternity.

***“And if anyone endures suffering while walking in God’s way, then he deserves praise. For what glory is it if you patiently endure while sinning and being beaten? But if you suffer while doing good, and patiently endure, this is a grace from God. For God called you to this. For Christ also suffered on our behalf, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps, He who did no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth, who when He was reviled did not revile in return. When He suffered, He did not threaten, but gave Himself up to Him who judges righteously. He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that dying to sins, we might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:19-24)***

Christ has set the example in suffering. He did not ever complain. He submitted voluntarily to death according to his will and God’s plan. God’s plan is to bear our sins to save us from death and so that we live a new righteous life, and that life is Christ.

***“Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult, but instead bless others because you were called to inherit a blessing. For the one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from uttering deceit. And he must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and follow it. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the Lord's face is against those who do evil. For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good? But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. But do not be terrified of them or be shaken. But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you.***

***For it is better to suffer for doing good, if God wills it, than for doing evil.***” (1 Peter 3:8-17) Be humble and do not return evil for evil and do not curse but bless. Keep Christ as Lord. And be ready to explain your hope in Christ, with courtesy and respect.

***“Dear friends, do not be astonished that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in the degree that you have shared in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice and be glad. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, who is the Spirit of God, rests on you.”*** (1 Peter 4:12-14) Do not be astonished by the trials. We are commanded to rejoice when we suffer for our faith in Christ. Rejoice and be glad! You are blessed because the Spirit of God is in you.

Christ has set us an example. Follow Him in suffering and do not seek revenge and do not curse, but trust God. And be humble and bless those that do you harm, ***“casting all your cares on him because he cares for you.”*** (1 Peter 5:7).

## SUMMARY OF THE COMMANDS AND APPLICATION OF THEM

What are the commands of God in the case we face suffering because of the Gospel according to the verses we have read above in the New Testament? In troubles He commands that we:

- Rejoice and rejoice greatly, making it obvious.
- Do not be surprised.
- Expect to die for your faith in Christ.
- Expect to lose your possessions and earthly relations.
- Be humble.
- Bless those who persecute you.
- Do not curse those who persecute you nor return evil or insult.
- Let God defend you.
- Be wise and innocent and beware.
- Testify boldly of Christ.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit and speak as He commands.
- Be ready to explain the hope of Christ in you, with courtesy and respect.
- Fear God, not people.
- Keep Christ as Lord.
- Accept and endure suffering for the sake of the Good News.
- When persecuted, go somewhere else and continue to preach the Gospel.
- Endure to the end.

These are difficult even impossible commands to keep! Does God expect us to obey? Yes, but how?

How can it be that we rejoice in persecution? How can I rejoice in suffering for the Gospel? Is it possible I can strengthen myself to rejoice from within myself? Is it possible that I can plan in order to rejoice greatly? Is it possible to encourage each other in order to succeed? The answer is that these are not possible, because these are all based on the failing flesh. Is it possible to

succeed by the law of God? No, because the flesh always leads to sin and the sin leads to death (see Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:21-22). So, how then do we rejoice in suffering and persecution?

The answer is that it is not you that rejoices but Christ who rejoices. Maybe you ask yourself 'How is that?' Because you have died with Christ and the life you live now is not your own life but Christ living in you. The life you live is by faith in the advocate of God who loves you and suffered and gave His life to die by His will as salvation for you. (see Galatians 2:20)

Let us review. We have seen that the book of God says that we will surely suffer for the Gospel. And God commands that we rejoice because of the persecution for the Gospel. And by faith we know that God has redeemed us and given us a new life. It is not you who live, but Christ lives in you. When we listen and obey the Holy Spirit and do it in His moment, feelings and emotions do not affect our behavior or actions even if the command is difficult or even impossible.

God does not call you to work on your own because you have died and He lives in you. So, by faith in Him and His strength you say, "Oh God, this commands is difficult for me. But I am dead and have been raised with You. You are alive in me. So, I request from You that You do it and I know that You are able to do it."

Let us review the subject of the new life in more detail.

## SALVATION

The punishment of death applies to us all "***for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God***" (Romans 3:23). And "***The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God has given is eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ***" (Romans 6:23). "***God has shown His love toward us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us***" (Romans 5:8). God has saved us from the just punishment of death through the mediator who is Christ who has paid the price of life through His death on the cross. By faith in Christ we do are not ashamed in front of God who is righteous because we wear a new life and that new life is Christ Himself and God accepts Him and accepts us also because we have died with Christ by faith and have risen with Him.

## THE EFFECT OF OUR DEATH AND RESSURECTION WITH CHRIST

We are all dead in Christ by faith.

- "***...we have been buried with him just as Christ was raised from the dead through the power of the Father and His glory, we too live a new life.***" (Romans 6:4)
- "***...we died with Christ so we believe that we also will live with him.***" (Romans 6:8)
- "***If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come.***" (II Corinthians 5:17)
- "***I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. And the life which I now live, I live it by faith, faith in the son of God who loved me and sacrificed himself for me.***" (Galatians 2:20)
- "***...you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.***" (Colossians 3:3) Christ is

your life (see Colossians 3:4)

It is not you who live, but Christ. You have died and Christ lives in you. Can Christ obey God? Can Christ obey these hard commands, even the impossible? Can He rejoice in persecution? The answer to all these questions is assuredly 'Yes.' He lives in you, so let Him work in you.

Do not close the door of God because it is available to you every moment. Do not seek your own pleasure which lead to destruction. But I encourage you to believe every moment that you died and have risen with Christ. Believe and He carries your difficulties.

What do we do in temptation? Does a dead person sin? No! It is impossible! You are dead by faith. Does Christ sin? No! He even conquered sin and death by His resurrection from the dead (see Romans 5:17).

So, we believe that Christ keeps us from eternal death and keep us from sin. Christ has completed the hard work and said to us, "***Come to me you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.***" (Matthew 11:28)

Through Christ, we can obey God, not through ourselves.

***"For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not difficult, because everyone who is a son of God conquers the world. And our faith is the strength whereby we conquer."*** (1 John 5:3-4) Because you have new life then the commands of God are not difficult. Believe in Him in every moment and He will keep you from every sin. Because when you face suffering our persecution it is best to pray something like this, "Oh my Lord, I am unable to walk in Your commands. But because I am dead and You live in me I ask You to do them." God is pleased with your faith in Him and you will witness His work in His moment.

Christ said to the believers, "***I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.***" (John 10:10)

Amen.