

# JA9. Keeping Our Faith Amidst Persecution.

*We are to keep our faith amidst persecution.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

## **Key New Testament Scriptures**

### 1 Timothy 1:18-19

*This charge, son Timothy, I put to you, in keeping with the prophecies already made about you, so that by these prophecies you may fight the good fight, armed with trust [faith] and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, some have made shipwreck of their trust;*

### 2 Timothy 4:5-7

*But you, remain steady in every situation, endure suffering, do the work that a proclaimer of the Good News should, and do everything your service to God requires. For as for me, I am already being poured out on the altar; yes, the time for my departure has arrived. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

### James 1:2-4

*Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations; for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance. But let perseverance do its complete work; so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.*

### 1 John 5:3-4

*For loving God means obeying his commands. Moreover, his commands are not burdensome, because everything which has God as its Father overcomes the world. And this is what victoriously overcomes the world: our trust.*

### Revelation 2:9-10

*I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!), and I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren't- on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary. Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Adversary is going to have some of you thrown in prison, in order to put you to the test; and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of death; and I will give you life as your crown.*

## **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

Matthew 5:11-12

1 Corinthians 4:12, 10:13

2 Corinthians 4:8-12, 12:10

Romans 5:3-4, 8:35-37

Philippians 1:27

2 Thessalonians 3:2

1 Timothy 1:18-19

2 Timothy 3:11. 4:7

Hebrews 11:13

1 Peter 3:14, 4:12-16, 19

### **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

JA03 Not Fearing Those Who Would Oppose, Persecute or Harm Us

### **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

Psalms 23:4

*Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me.*

Psalms 31:15(14)

*But I, I trust in you, ADONAI; I say, "You are my God."*

### **Comment**

Although the key Scriptures that support this *Mitzvah* are about faith in Yeshua, the principle they teach is equally applicable to faith in God broadly. Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 as “*being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.*” Being confident of our relationship with God in the midst of persecution is a test of our faith, and a question often asked is: “Why is God allowing this to happen to me?” Sometimes God reveals why and sometimes He does not. In the Book of Job, God allows Satan to have his way with a man that God Himself says is blameless, upright, fear God, and shuns evil. Job never knows why God withdraws His protection from him and permits the grievous occurrences we read about to befall him, but we know from verses 1:8-12 that it was to demonstrate to Satan the power and incorruptibility of Job’s faith.

If that were all there were to it, the Book of Job would be no more than an interesting (albeit sad) story of one man’s misery. However, it is included in our Scriptures because it is much more. It is a demonstration to Satan (and an encouragement to us) of the futility of Satan’s efforts to keep control of his earthly domain. It is a demonstration that faith in God is so powerful that future generations of God’s people armed with the faith of Job and even more – with Yeshua, the *Ru’ach HaKodesh*, and the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-17) – will be able to oppose all that Satan can throw at them and, like Job, will nevertheless choose God over Satan. We need to take this *Mitzvah* “Keeping Our Faith Amidst Persecution” very seriously, because those future generations for whom the lesson of Job is meant include us.

### **Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

G12 Having Faith in God & Trusting Him in All Things

Y04 Expecting & Accepting Persecution on Account of Our Faith in Yeshua