

Answer Key:

Remember this about Opposition.

1. like
2. deepen
3. eternal

What to do next...

1. surprised
2. afraid
3. ashamed
4. source
5. retaliate
6. blessing

6 R's

- Rely
- Respect
- Reinforce
- Reallocate
- Reassure
- Refuse

October 8, 2023

You asked for it!

Part 5

Be Prepared to...!

2 Timothy 3:12 CEV

"In fact, anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others."

1 Peter 3:15 GWT

"But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect."

Introductory Statement

You cannot have an opportunity without opposition. One of the greatest tests for a Christian is how you handle opposition. Do you panic under pressure? Do you get uptight, lose your temper, blow up, become discouraged, or give up? Part of the job description of Christian is dealing with people who oppose what you are sharing with others.

Barry Yates

You Can Expect Opposition Because the World Hated Jesus!

Remember this about Opposition.

Criticism is "the act of expressing disapproval and of noting the problems or faults of a person or thing: the act of criticizing someone or something".

1. It will make me more _____ Jesus.

John 15:18-20 NIV

"When the world hates you, remember it hated me first. The world would love you IF you belonged to it, but you don't. I chose you out of the world. That's why the world will hate you. No servant is ever greater than his master, so since they persecuted me, they will persecute you too."

1 Peter 4:14 Message

"If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others."

Remember this about Opposition.

2. It will _____ my faith.

1 Peter 1:7 NIV

These troubles will prove that your faith is genuine. Just as gold is purified by fire and heat, so your faith, which is far more precious than gold, must also be purified by fire so it may endure. Then you'll receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

If you have no opposition in your life, then you have no growing faith.

Remember about Opposition

3. It will give me _____ rewards.

Matthew 5:10-12 CEV

"They are blessed who are persecuted for doing good, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. "People will insult you and hurt you. They will lie and say all kinds of evil things about you because you follow me. But when they do, you will be blessed. Rejoice and be glad, because you have a great reward waiting for you in heaven. People did the same evil things to the prophets who lived before you."

Christianity is not for weaklings, for wimps, for the faint of heart.

It takes courageous men.

It takes courageous women to follow Jesus.

What to do next...

1. Do not be _____!

1 Peter 4:12 CEV/TEV

"Dear friends, don't be surprised or shocked when you go through painful trials that are like walking through fire, as though something unusual is happening to you."

What to do next...

2. Do not be _____!

1 Peter 3:14-15 NLT

"If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it, so don't be afraid and don't worry! Instead, worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it."

What to do next...

3. Do not be _____!

1 Peter 4:16 NLT

"It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Instead, thank God for the privilege of being called by his name!"

1 Peter 5:9 NLT

"Take a firm stand against Satan and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are."

1 Peter 3:17 NLT

"Remember, it is better to suffer for doing God's will than to suffer for doing evil."

What to do next...

4. Recognize the _____.

Ephesians 6:12 TEV

"We're not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly realm..."

2 Timothy 2:23-26 CEV

"Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble. God's servants must never quarrel. (Instead) be kind to everyone... and be patient. Be humble when you correct people who oppose you... they've been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape."

What to do next...

5. Refuse to _____.

Romans 12:17-19 NLT

"Never pay back evil with more evil... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. And never avenge yourself. Leave that to God, who has said, 'I'll be the judge and I'll take care of it.'"

1 Peter 4:19 NIV

"Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."

What to do next...

6. Respond with _____.

Romans 12:21 ESV

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Luke 6:27-29 NLT

Jesus: "LOVE your enemies! DO GOOD to those who hate you. BLESS those who curse you. PRAY for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek."

6 R's...

1. _____ on God.

Nehemiah 4:4-5 NLT

"Then I prayed, 'Hear us, O our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in the presence of the builders.'"

2. _____ the opposition.

Nehemiah 4:9 NLT

"But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves."

3. _____ your weak points.

Nehemiah 4:13 NLT

"So, I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows."

6 R's...

4. _____ resources, but don't stop what
you're doing.

Nehemiah 4:16 NLT

"But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The officers stationed themselves behind the people of Judah."

5. **Reassure the people.**

Nehemiah 4:14 NLT

"Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the leaders and the people and said to them, 'Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your friends, your families, and your homes!'"

6 R's...

6. _____
7. to quit.

Nehemiah 4:15 NLT

"When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall."

We can give. We can pray. We can learn.