

### Volume 5, Day 17: My Way Persecutes Jesus

Am I determined to do things **my own** way for God? We are never free from this tendency until we are completely surrendered in love and absolute trust of the Holy Spirit within us. Obstinacy and self-will always stab the heart of Jesus. It may hurt no one else, but it wounds His Spirit. Whenever we are affected by our own ambitions, we will be hurting Jesus. Every time we insist on exercising our rights or achieving our own results, we are persecuting Jesus. Whenever we defend our dignity, we grieve His Spirit. And when we realize that it is Jesus Whom we have been persecuting all the time, it is the most crushing revelation to our ego.

Is the word of God tremendously seen in me as I pass it on to you, or does my lifestyle betray me and reveal that I do not live according to the things I profess to believe? I may teach doctrines of scripture or moral character and yet express rejection or hatred (the spirit of Satan). The Spirit of Jesus is conscious of one thing only - perfect emotional and relational unity with the Father. Jesus says, "Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart." All I do should be motivated by genuine affection of the most intimate kind. Unconditional love will automatically produce grace (**undeserved** favor). When I am in perfect unity with God, I will "**love like Jesus loves.**"

When my unity with Jesus initiates every expression I make (words, deeds, body language or facial expressions), I can be made a laughing stock, manipulated, coerced or ignored without retaliation. This is what it means to be crucified with Christ, being persecuted like Him. However, my self-willed determination to look like I am godly reveals my contempt for Jesus and the work of the Cross.

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences: