



## The Exchange - "Persecution and Prayer"

7 February 2015

1. Have you experienced hardship for following God? How did you get strength to deal with it?
2. Do you think persecution exists in Australia today? In what ways yes? In what ways no?
3. Do you think religion and persecution will always go hand in hand?
3. When sin and righteousness meet there is conflict! Do you agree? Where have you seen this? (in yourself? your family? those around you? in the wider world?)
4. We know that in times of distress people are more willing to pray. After September 11, the churches were full. So does that mean that trouble is actually a good and necessary thing? Why is it good (or bad)?
5. Although some who prayed were saved, many died praying. How does prayer help in a situation of persecution?
6. We know that a common adversity can bring people together. But our lives are not a constant flow of horrible situations. How do we enjoy a fulfilling prayer life regardless of whether we are under the pressure of persecution or in an average time of peace?
7. Does prayer make a person closer to God or does a person who is close to God pray more?
8. "Strength comes from waiting on God." Where does society say strength comes from? Do you wait on God? If not, what are the barriers that stop you doing this?
9. If someone asked you what it means to 'open the door to your heart' what would you say?
10. What do you think caused Jesus and Stephen to plead on the behalf of their persecutors?