

Prayer for the enemies of Spiritism

50. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be filled. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when, for my sake, they curse you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you. Rejoice and be happy. Your reward will be great in Heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who lived before you.* (Matthew 5:6,10-12.)

Instead of fearing those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, fear that which can make both soul and body perish in hell. (Matthew 10:28.)

51. Introduction. Freedom of thought is a sacred right. Experience shows that one who curses those who think differently often demands conscience flexibility for self but denies it to others. However, everyone has the right to believe what is fit for them. The person who disrespects the beliefs of others violates the Christian commandment of loving one's neighbor. Brute force can cause fear, involuntary resignation and hypocrisy, but not a belief. On the other hand, *the truth is sure of itself and dispenses with repression*.

A belief may be false or true. When it is wrong it falls by itself, because truth prevails

over mistake as time passes and minds become more enlightened. If the belief is true, persecution cannot make it false.

An idea that opposes selfish interests is usually met with hostility, whose intensity increases with the idea's freeing power. The greater the fear the new concept provokes in its opponents, the greater their anger. This is why Christianity was persecuted in the past and Spiritism is today, although the former was repressed by pagans and the latter is by Christians. Even when physical violence is absent, the pursuer can torment the persecuted ones by attacking their feelings and affections. Families are divided. Daughter and son are incited against the parents; wife and husband against each other. Even the body can also be indirectly attacked, when the persecutor takes away someone's livelihood, so that the need afflicts them. Spiritism is a liberating belief. It opposes selfish interests. Therefore, its persecution is expected.¹

Spiritists! Continue to be serene, charitable and peaceful despite the blows you may receive. Strive to set a good moral example. Your persistent virtue shows that you are true Christians! Oppression tests your faith. Construction of the new Earth needs your courage, perseverance and love. Remember that divine justice always works and it gives each one their part, according to their deeds. Be

¹ - See chapter 23 from item 9 on.

proud to help building the foundations of the regeneration planet.

Bravely follow the example of the early Christians. Remind Jesus, who said, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” He also teaches, “Love your enemies, do good to those who harm you, and pray for those who persecute you.” Therefore show that your doctrine is good by following the Lord’s example.

The chase will be short-lived. Forgive your persecutors, for they are temporarily unable to see the truth. Wait patiently for dawn, because the morning star is already on the horizon.²

52 Prayer. My God! Through Jesus you say, “Forgive your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. Blessed are you if you suffer persecution for righteousness.” Christ showed us the right way to conduct ourselves by praying he himself for his executioners.

Following his example, my God, we ask your mercy for those who despise your teachings. Like Jesus, we also say, “Forgive them, my God, for they ignore what they are doing.”

Give us strength to meekly endure their mockery, insults, slander, and persecution. Grant

us faith and humility to continue practicing our best charity. Keep away from us any thought of reprisal. We know that your justice is perfect and always comes at the proper time. Thus we trust in your holy will. So be it!

2 - See chapter 24 from item 13 on.