



## **QA: What If We Are Punished For Speaking Out?** by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

### **QUESTION: What can we do if we are punished for speaking out?**

**ANSWER: Remember, God is in charge, and His people always have the advantage.**

#### **1. John the Baptist Called Down Soldiers:**

"Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." (**Luke 3:14**)

"Intimidate" involved violent shaking; "accuse falsely" involved making up charges; "content with wages" meant not using their position to increase their wealth. This description of "bullying" could not be clearer, and the remedy was to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (**Luke 3:8**). Indeed, conversion required these agents of government "to repent," or change their attitude from this "bullying." When government becomes a Goliath, the message still is,

All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. (**1 Peter 5:5-6**)

#### **2. People Have The Power:**

And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. (**Luke 22:2**)

And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."  
(**1 Peter 3:13-14**)

Christians stand for the truth of God's Word, having no dread from "threats, nor be troubled." Our confidence comes from obeying God's Word.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (**2 Timothy 1:7**)

This "spirit of fear" is "cowardice," or shrinking back from. The Bible shows us God's "power" over everything; it brings out the best in us as "love;" and gives us "a

sound mind," or controlled attitude, we call "confidence." Christians fear less and have less to fear.

3. **God's Voice Is Over All:** There are many misguided people who think God speaks to their individual heart. The Apostle Paul's sermon showed how those Jews who crucified Jesus Christ had not listened to God's Prophets:

For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. (**Acts 13:27**)

"Voices" can be "read?" Yes, that's what the Holy Spirit-inspired Scriptures are for: to speak as if God were saying it. The Apostle James said,

Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath. (**Acts 15:21**)

The only "voice" of God every heart today should hear is from the written Word of God!

—- jtpll, July 24, 2022