



Hold On
Todd Arnett
October 17th and 18th, 2026

"Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ, and it is therefore not at all surprising that Christians should be called upon to suffer. In fact it is a joy and a token of his grace. The acts of the early Christian martyrs are full of evidence which shows how Christ transfigures for his own the hour of their mortal agony by granting them the unspeakable assurance of his presence. In the hour of the cruelest torture they bear for his sake, they are made the partakers in the perfect joy and bliss of fellowship with him. To bear the cross proves to be the only way of triumphing over suffering. This is true for all who follow Christ, because it was true for him."

1. The reality of Jesus knowing our OBEDIENCE and our CHALLENGES is equally encouraging.



HIGHDESERTCHURCH



HIGHDESERTCHURCH.COM

Revelation 3:7-8, Isaiah 22:22

It's not just that Jesus is aware, but that He is on the MOVE.

2. Persecution may come from a host of sources, including other RELIGIONS.

Revelation 3:9-10, Revelation 2:9, Isaiah 60:14



HIGHDESERTCHURCH



HIGHDESERTCHURCH.COM

"Although Jesus followers may have been excommunicated from the synagogue, Christ has the key of David, which guarantees them entry into the messianic kingdom, and what Christ opens, not even the "synagogue of Satan" can close."

– Jeffrey A. D. Weima

3. Jesus' most consistent charge to the seven churches is that they REMAIN LOYAL to Him.

Revelation 3:11-13

The original Greek word translated as "soon" does not mean "immediately" or necessarily "in a very short time" but rather "WITHOUT any DELAY"



James 1:12

"If we refuse to take up our cross and submit to suffering and rejection at the hands of men, we forfeit our fellowship with Christ and have ceased to follow him. But if we lose our lives in his service and carry our cross, we shall find our lives again in the fellowship of the cross with Christ. The opposite of discipleship is to be ashamed of Christ and his cross and all the offence which the cross brings in its train."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Text Bible to **64567**



HIGHDESERTCHURCH



HIGHDESERTCHURCH.COM