

## Biblical Reflection 2: “What is a Christian Resistance Movement?”

February 16, 2021

In times of crisis, we often initially react out of fear, desperation, anger, panic, or some other instinctual response--just like everyone else, regardless of faith or religion. But as Christians, as time goes on, our impulsive responses should give way to a more thoughtful, prayerful, and faith-full engagement in the crisis, which grows out of our commitment to serve Jesus Christ and our dependence on God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, a Christian resistance movement will be Christ-centered, God-honoring, and Spirit-dependent, not us-centered, self-serving, and self-reliant.



Your expectations of ultimate victory and deliverance from evil will certainly coincide with the hopes and dreams of other oppressed people in your pluralistic context; but as a Christ-follower, you will also care about how you achieve your goals and about what God wants to produce in your souls, minds, hearts, and relationships as you are purified by the fire and formed through your trials.

Consequently, in a Christian resistance movement, such as the one in Myanmar currently, you will both continually pray for God to intervene and work in your country in ways that far exceed your abilities; and, at the same time, you will keep looking for how God is at work in and among you, producing changes within you and mobilizing you toward one another, with one another, and for one another.

Already, in the present crisis, I can see that the Spirit is drawing many of you together in new ways, stirring up fresh ideas, motivating you, empowering you, providing resources, and leading you. Within the cauldron of chaos, confusion, uncertainty, and desperation, God is creating something in and among you that will produce nourishment and real benefit for both you and others, both among your fellow Christians and for your Buddhist neighbors.

Thus, a Christian resistance movement also recognizes that you have been given a golden opportunity for Christian witness. I'm not talking about preaching or trying to convert anyone at this moment. I'm talking about showing your Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim neighbors how your love for Jesus Christ, your love of neighbor, and your daily dependence on the Holy Spirit make a real difference in how you think, act, and work with one another to confront the present evil, to stand with one another, and to care for those who are suffering and struggling the most.

By God's grace, you will surely do this more and more. I already see it happening, and I pray that God will continue to accomplish his good purposes in, among, and through you all in more ways that you can even imagine. Please know that Jill and I are standing with you in prayer every day.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Amen. —Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV