

him and laid it on his chest. Even though he had only three years of formal education, he memorized the whole Gospel of Matthew in less than a month. And from there, he proceeded to memorize the Book of Acts. He delighted himself in God's holy Word! He continually clutched his new Bible close to his heart and thanked God again and again!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to us? Do we need a fresh hunger for God's word in our lives today? My guess is we probably do. I pray that together we would be a people who are desperate for the promises laid out in the Bible! Let's read the Scriptures daily and commit entire chapters and books to memory! Meditate on the life-giving pages! Follow the example of Brother Yun; hunger and thirst after the authoritative Word.

2. Be willing to follow Christ in His suffering

Brother Shui has inspired many with his joyful attitude in the face of suffering. During the Cultural Revolution, Chinese Christians were often forced to parade in public wearing a large, cone-shaped dunce's cap with their crimes written on it. Townspeople would come and mock the Christians who were wearing the caps. But God used this "form of punishment" to strengthen His church. Amazingly, some Christians were heard saying, "When we embrace this pain and humiliation, there is nothing the world can do to affect us!"

Brother Shui was among that number. When the time came for him to be paraded in public, the police couldn't find a dunce's cap for him to wear. He was forced to walk the course without one, which deeply upset him. He wanted to wear the hat that proclaimed his crime: "This person believes in Jesus." Like many, he considered this label as a badge of pride, rather than humiliation.

The next day, a dunce's cap was found. And Brother Shui was on top of the world! His face shone with joy as he paraded through the streets! He was now considered worthy to suffer fully for the name of Jesus! Other Christians gained much strength when they saw the joy of the Lord on his face. And it was also a powerful witness to unbelievers who came to mock and ridicule!

This inspiring account leads us to a place of reflection. Are we willing to follow the lead of Brother Shui, joining the multitudes who have walked the path of suffering? Are we willing to embrace pain and humiliation? It's important to realize that as we embrace suffering, there's nothing the world can do to affect us. We are free!

3. Stay passionate for world missions

In house churches throughout China, people are constantly talking and strategizing and breathing world missions. It's becoming a passion in many lives! Chinese Christians long to be used by God to pull down the world's last remaining spiritual strongholds – the house of Buddha, the house of Mohammed, and the house of Hinduism. Their vision is known as *Back to Jerusalem*. This simply refers to a call from God to penetrate all the countries between China and Jerusalem. It is a Spirit-led passion to help fulfill the Great Commission in many resistant nations!

Chinese Christians believe the past fifty years of suffering and torture under their own oppressive government is all part of God's training for them as effective missionaries. Now they're ready to win the lost and suffer for the Lord beyond China's border. Brother Yun confirms this by saying, "The worst they can do to us is kill us, but all that means is we will be promoted into the glorious presence of our Lord for all eternity." That's an awesome perspective, is it not?

In speaking to the western church, leaders in China wrote the following challenge: "If you are willing to spill your blood and die for a vision, you are truly a partner with