

THROUGH THE FIRE

Revelations 2:8-11
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INTRO:

Ephesus, Smyrna....

A. THE RECOGNITION OF CHRIST IN SMYRNA

1. Christ is sovereign (v. 8a)
2. Christ is powerful (v. 8b)
3. Christ is with us (v. 9a)

B. THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

1. They worshipped God faithfully (v. 9a)
2. They trusted God faithfully (v. 9b)
3. They stood for God faithfully (v. 10a)
4. They lived for God faithfully (v. 10b)

C. THE REWARD OF THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

1. Though poor, they were considered rich (v. 9)
2. Though persecuted, they were given the victor's crown (v. 10)
3. Though afflicted, they were protected from eternal harm (v. 11)

CONCLUSION

If Christ would write a letter to us today, will it be like the Church in Ephesus, or the Church in Smyrna. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Share about a time when your faith was challenged. How did you respond, and what helped you stay faithful?

Digging Into the Passage

1. Read Revelations 2:8-9. What does it mean that Jesus is the "First and the Last" and the One who "was dead and came to life"? How does it impact you to know that Jesus sees and understands your challenges?
 2. What struggles do we face as Christians today that challenge our faithfulness to Christ? How can we encourage one another to remain faithful in tough times?
 3. Read Revelations 2:10. Jesus warned the Smyrnans about the upcoming suffering but told them not to fear. Why is this command significant? What fears keep you from fully trusting God, and how can His promises help overcome them?
 4. What does it mean to be "faithful unto death"? How can we prepare to live with that level of commitment? How does the promise of the "crown of life" motivate us to stay faithful through trials?
 5. What are some practical ways we can live out our faith daily, even in the face of opposition or hardship?
 6. Read Revelations 2:11. What does it mean to be "unharmd by the second death"? How does this promise provide hope and assurance in your faith journey?
 7. What steps can you take to keep your eyes on the eternal rewards Christ promises?
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Closing Reflection:

- **Personal Challenge:** Take a moment to reflect: What area of your life requires greater faithfulness to Christ?
- **Group Discussion:** If Jesus were to write a letter to our life group, what would He commend? What areas would He challenge us to grow in?
- **Prayer.** Pray for courage to face trials, strength to remain faithful, and a deeper focus on the eternal promises of Christ.