

Be Faithful (1/26/25)

Discussion Questions

Summary: Smyrna is the only one of the seven churches to whom Jesus did not address a confrontation of sin. He acknowledged their suffering and affirmed their commitment. And He called them to stand firm and endure, trusting completely in Him. Come Sunday to hear the exhortations of Jesus: 1) assess your true condition; 2) do not fear physical suffering and; 3) Be faithful to the end. Whatever your struggles now, Jesus knows them and is calling you to trust Him and walk with Him every step of the way!

Benediction: James 1:2-4

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10

Exhortations from Jesus:

1. Assess your true **Condition**
 - Are you rich or poor in God’s **Kingdom**? (v. 9; Matt. 6:1-4; Luke 12:19-21; 2 Cor. 9:6-11)
 - Are you a true **Israelite**? (Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 6:14-15; Matt. 7:22-23)
2. Do not fear **Physical** suffering
 - God **Restricts** and redeems the attacks of the enemy (v. 10; Job 1:9-12)
 - Tribulation tests (1 Pet. 1:6-7) and develops your **Character** (Rom. 5:3-4; James 1:2-4)
3. Be faithful to the **End**
 - Trust in Jesus, who conquered **Death** (v. 8)
 - Rejoice in His promise of everlasting **Life** (v. 10-11)

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

Get Started:

1. Have you ever been mis-diagnosed medically? What happened? How did it turn out?
2. On the other hand, have you ever been blessed by a quick and accurate diagnosis? How did that help you?

Dig Deeper:

3. Read Revelation 2:8-11. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. How is Jesus introduced and described in v. 8? Why do you think that is significant?
5. What does Jesus affirm about the church in Smyrna (v. 9)?
6. What does it tell us about this church that there is no confrontation, no “I have this against you,” in this letter?
7. How is Jesus preparing the church in v. 10?
8. How does the promise of v. 11 encourage you?

Move Forward:

9. How are you doing right now both practically (physically) and spiritually?
10. Read 1 Peter 1:5-7. How does suffering test the genuineness of our faith?
11. What challenges and trials are you facing right now that are testing *your* faith?
12. Notice that these are the questions in the Spiritual Life Worksheet (<https://www.oakwoodfl.org/2025/01/03/faithful/>). 1) How are you? 2) How is your time with the Lord? 3) How is the Lord shaping you? 4) How could you join in His work?
13. Which of these questions is most relevant for you right now? Why?
14. How can we pray for you today?