



## TALK IT OVER

Suffering in Smyrna

### BOTTOM LINE

Don't waste your suffering. God has a purpose for your persecution.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

What illness looms in your mind as the one that really knocked you off your feet?

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

### RESOURCES

- The Daily:  
[newpointe.org/thedaily](http://newpointe.org/thedaily)

Pictures and info about [Smyrna](#)

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.* Revelation 2:8-11 NIV

"We don't have to wonder what Jesus would say to the church today. Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What He tells the churches in Revelation is what He would tell us today." – Dan Wigton

"The church in Smyrna was suffering and poor by worldly standards, but Jesus pronounced them rich because of their faithfulness." – Dan Wigton

### TALK IT OVER

What are reasons you have heard for why Christians suffer? How does learning about suffering Smyrna affect your opinion on suffering as a Jesus-follower? Jesus told the church He knew and understood their suffering. How does being understood help when you are suffering? What kind of suffering is most challenging for you? What about their suffering made them afraid? How did the believers reject fear? What do you fear as you follow Jesus? How do you deal with your fear? Fear typically impacts faithfulness. When you are afraid what helps you stay faithful? What was the eventual crown of life Jesus promised to those who stay faithful? How does faithfulness to Jesus give you life in the here and now.

### ACTION STEP

My current suffering or fear as I live for Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. I choose to be faithful. I will keep my focus by \_\_\_\_\_