

# The Churches of Revelation: Jesus Speaks His Mind

*Pt. 2—How to Respond to Suffering*

May 24, 2009

## The Church at Smyrna

**Revelation 2:8** Write this letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna. This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive:

## Jesus Commends the Church

**Revelation 2:9-10** I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the slander of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan. Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death,...

Where Does Persecution Come From...

The Powerful  
The Culture  
The Jealous  
The Evil One

## Jesus Challenges the Church

**Revelation 2:11** I will give you the crown of life. "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death.

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Look at the TRUTH about Jesus...

He is eternal  
He is victorious  
He is all knowing  
He is wise  
He is sovereign  
He is purposeful  
He is generous

## How should we respond to suffering:

- **Be Fearless**

**Psalm 3:5-6** I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.

**Philippians 3:13-14** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- **Be Faithful**

**1 Corinthians 1:9** God, who has called you to share everything with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful and will give you strength and will protect you from the Evil One.