

To Hurting People

⁸ And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: "The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. ⁹ I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death." (Rev 2:8-11 - ESV)

1. "I Know"

*I know ... your **tribulation** (2:9)*

*I know ... your **poverty** (2:9)*

*I know ... the **slander** (2:9)*

2. "Do Not Be Afraid"

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. (2:10)

Jesus Doesn't Say "Do Not Feel"

Jesus Doesn't Say "You Will Not Suffer"

*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. (2:10)*

In this world you will have trouble. (John 16:33, NIV)

3. "Be Faithful"

*Be **faithful** unto death (2:10)*

4. "I Will Reward You"

*And I **will give you** the crown of life. (2:10)*

Notice how Jesus describes Himself in these verses

- **He Is Eternal** *the First and the Last (2:8)*
- **He Is Victorious** *who died and came to life. (2:8)*
- **He Is All Knowing** *I know (2:9)*
- **He Is Sovereign** *for ten days you will have tribulation. (2:10)*
- **He Is Generous** *I will give you the crown of life. (2:10)*

The Bottom Line: Focus on Jesus!