

# Revelation Part Four: Smyrna, faithful under pressure

## Journey Group Discussion Guide

**Revelation 2:8-11**

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This guide is to help your group integrate deeper discussion of the weekend message at SVA. The goal is to form spiritually as an individual and a group which leads to mission in your neighborhoods.

### **RELEASE...**

Last week we focused on the letter to the church at Ephesus. While they were strong in doctrine and discerning false teachers, they had lost the motivation and culture of love. This was a fatal flaw. Christianity is not just about doctrine (knowledge) alone...it must be wed to love and compassion or God will remove the lampstand. Take about 2 minutes of silence as a group to think back over the last week to notice the moments when you were operating out of love and when you were operating out of law.

### **REFLECT...**

*Start by reading Revelation 2:8-11 and Romans 5:1-8*

- Why do you think there were no “condemnations” towards this church?
- How have you experienced God’s presence in your painful or pressured circumstances?
- Have you ever been “slandered” because of your faith? What happened?
- Discuss the difference “living in the light of eternity” can make in your life.
- What aspect of the Smyrnan church do you identify with the most?
- How has suffering drawn you closer to God and others?
- How do you deal with the truth God’s job is not to keep you from suffering or trials?
- When you experience suffering, persecution, trials, what is your normal response?

## **RESPOND...**

- How can our Journey Group better engage with persecuted Christians?
- What will you do this week remain faithful under pressure?
- What will you do to keep your eyes on eternity this week?
- Is there someone we know that is experiencing hard times that we can help as a JG?
- Who should you invite to your Journey Group next week?

## **Prayer Points...**

- Pray for persecuted Christians world wide. Check out <http://www.persecution.com>
- Pray for our Journey Group...that we would be willing to stand up faithfully for Christ in our contexts..
- Pray for our country, that God would cause us to depend on Him
- Pray for those in the group who are facing hard choices.
- Pray for detachment from materialism in order to freely depend on God.

Remember, suffering is part of the process God uses to grow you into the whole person He created you to be. Allow Him to walk with you into the dark nights...and stay close, especially when you want run the other way or try to avoid the path of suffering and trials. He will never leave you or leave you hanging...His presence remains always.

***~Pastor Monty***