

The Church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

Jesus knows what death was like.

📖 Revelation 2:8 (NIV84) “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.”

📖 Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV84) “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

Jesus knows what life is like.

📖 Revelation 2:9 (NIV84) “I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

1. Jesus knows what it's like to feel pain.
2. Jesus knows what it's like to feel poor.
3. Jesus knows what it's like to feel put down.

Jesus knows what tomorrow will be like.

📖 Revelation 2:10–11 (NIV84) “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 the crown of life.¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.”

5 Crowns in Heaven

1. The Crown of Life. (Revelation 2:10; James 1:12)
2. The Crown of Victory. (1 Corinthians 9:25–27)
3. The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
4. The Crown of Righteousness. (2 Timothy 4:8)
5. The Crown of Glory. (1 Peter 5:4)

📖 James 1:12 (NIV84) “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.”

Digging Deeper: Jesus is telling us to buckle up and to stand up for Him. Are we, as a church, as faithful as the church in Smyrna was? Do you have the same moxie as Polycarp? Will you pray for and stand with your brothers and sisters in Nigeria and China? Would you say “Christos Kurious” = “Jesus is Lord” even if it costs you everything?