Revelation 2.8-11 **Church of Smyrna: Faithful Unto Death**

***Fear not! Be faithful! Receive a Crown of Life!***

**Be an *overcomer* and not be *overcome.***

8  And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna (“***myrrh***”) write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Subject Sentence: The First and Last **Who conquered death** knows my works, my afflictions/pressure (tribulation), my poverty (though I’m rich) – He knows who aren’t believers: ***Fear not!*** the things I’ll suffer: ***Be faithful!*** to death, and ***Receive a Crown of Life!***

**Overcome and I will not be hurt the *second death*.**

Aim: This passage would cause me to ***not fear*** things I’ll suffer but be faithful until death.

Be an *overcomer* and not be *overcome.*

1. I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you’re rich)\* and I know the blasphemy of them which say they’re Jews but aren’t – they’re of the synagogue of Satan.

\**poverty*

* **2Corinthians 8:2** How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep **poverty** abounded unto the riches of their liberality.
* **2Corinthians 8:9** For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his **poverty** might be rich.

Application Questions:

1. What are the works/toils I am giving to Jesus?
2. What are the pressures/afflictions I face?
3. What is my poverty?
4. Who are those who are not of the kingdom of God but saying they are?

II. Fear none of the things you’ll suffer – devil will cast some into prison to be tried – you’ll have tribulation *ten days.* Be faithful to death and receive a crown of life!

**Fear is the OPPOSITE of FAITH!!**

*Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and* ***be not faithless, but believing****.*  (John 20:27 KJV)

Acts 20. 24But *none of these things move me;* neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course *with joy* and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God’s grace (His unmerited favor, spiritual blessing, and mercy).

**Fear is a choice OVER FAITH**

* **Psalms 56:3** What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.
* **Isaiah 41:10**   Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
* **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
* **Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
* **Joshua 1:9** Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.
* **Isaiah 43:1**   But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.
* **Psalms 27:1**   The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
* **1Peter 5:7** Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
* **Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)
* **Romans 8:31**   What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?
* **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
* **Psalms 46:1**   God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
* **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
* **John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
* **Isaiah 26:3** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.
* **Hebrews 11:1**   Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Faith = Focus**

* **Romans 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
* **Psalms 62:11** God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.
* **Matthew 17:20** And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Faith is not about *you* but about WHO your faith is in!**

(Hebrews 11 = “sub” “stance”; evidence of what isn’t seen)

We walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 57).

**“FEAR” = *F****alse* ***E****vidence* ***A****ppearing* ***R****eal*

**FEAR = (see Matthew 8)**

 **F**orgetting your past experiences with Jesus!

 **E**ars to hear but not really hearing what Jesus is speaking to you!

 **A**mbivalent about WHO Jesus is!

 **R**estricting the POWER of God to get you through!

 Application Questions:

1. What things do I fear that need to be put aside?
2. How can I *choose/focus on* **faith** over **fear?**
3. Am I commited to be “faithful up to death”? How can I ensure that?
4. How can I say as Paul *I die daily*? (Scripture?)
5. Am I pressing toward the mark for the price of the *crown of life?*

III. To him that overcomes: he shall not be hurt the second death.

Application Questions

1. What do I need to do to be an *overcomer* and receive this prize of not being hurt the second death? (Second death = Revelation 20.14: *Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* Revelation 21.8 *The fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters and liars all have their place in the lake which burns with brimstone: which is the second death.*
2. Do I have *eternity* firmly fixed in my mind and heart and life? How do I *redeem* the time (because the days are evil... Ephesians 5.16)? How do I (Colossians 2. 2*Set my affection on things above and* ***not*** *on things beneath* 3For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (**4**When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.)
3. How can I say as Paul *I die daily*? (Scripture?)

**1Corinthians 15:1**   Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: **5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: **6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. **7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. **8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. **11** Therefore whether *it were* I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

**1Corinthians 15:12**   Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: **14** And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain. **15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. **16** For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: **17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. **18** Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

**1Corinthians 15:20**   But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. **21** For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. **24** Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. **25** For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. **27** For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him, it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. **28** And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. **29** Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? **30** And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? **31** I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. **32** If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. **33** Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. **34** Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

**1Corinthians 15:35**   But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? **36** *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: **37** And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: **38** But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. **39** All flesh *is* not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds. **40** *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. **41** *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory. **42** So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: **43** It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: **44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. **45** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. **46** Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. **47** The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. **48** As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. **49** And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. **50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

**1Corinthians 15:51**   Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? **56** The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. **57** But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1Corinthians 15:58**   Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.