

Read Revelation 2:8-11

1. In verse 8, Jesus reveals Himself as the One who was dead and is now alive. How does Jesus' identification as the One who died and rose to life relate to the suffering of the church in Smyrna, and to our own suffering?
2. In verse 9, Jesus says the familiar words of comfort: "I know." How does Jesus' "knowing" our suffering transform the way we face our own suffering as Christians?
3. In verse 10, Jesus commands and assures us to not fear what we are about to suffer. How does the peace of Christ change the way we face our fears and our suffering?
4. Near the end of verse 10, Jesus encourages us to be faithful even unto death. How can we be encouraging each other to be faithful even to the bitter end, to persevere even through intense suffering?