

to the church of SMYRNA

"I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 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 life as your victor's crown."

Revelation 2:9-10

Often
times the
hard thing
about
suffering is
that it feels
like no one
else knows
what we're
going
through...

..but Jesus says “*I know.*”

Jesus is not going to ask you to go through something that he has not gone through himself. You will never walk through trials, tribulations or suffering alone.

- yet you are *RICH!*

According to Christ, wealth is enrichment of character, not possession of gold.

Jesus is saying to the Church in Smyrna, you are the poorest people in Smyrna; others have wealth of material things and wealth of this world, **but you have the true fullness.**

It is better to be rich in Christ than the riches of this world - he's not talking about money, he's talking about their soul.

**THE TRUE FULLNESS OF A
NATION IS THE *NUMBER*
OF MEN AND WOMEN
WHO ARE LIVING IN
*FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.***

the suffering was worth the outcome
FOR SMYRNA
FOR JESUS

What does that mean for us?

don't be afraid

be faithful

WE MUST BE SO ROOTED IN OUR FAITH
THAT NOTHING WILL UPROOT US.