

# REVELATION 2 Week 5 The Church of Smyrna

**Pentecostal / Spirit-filled interpretive on the churches of Smyrna from Book of Revelation, using key passages from the Amplified Bible (AMP) and emphasizing perseverance, spiritual warfare, compromise, and prophetic application.**

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## The Church of Smyrna

 Revelation 2:8–11 (AMP)

### Key Passage (AMP)

**“And to the angel (divine messenger) of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the First and the Last [absolute Deity, the Son of God], who was dead and came to life:**

**‘I know your suffering and your poverty (but you are rich), and how you are slandered by those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan.**

**Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Be aware that the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested [in your faith], and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful to the point of death [if you must die for your faith], and I will give you the crown [consisting] of life.**

**He who has an ear, let him hear and heed what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God] will not be hurt by the second death.”**

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## Spirit-Filled Interpretation

### The Prophetic Identity of Christ

**Jesus reveals Himself as “the First and the Last... who was dead and came to life.”**

This is resurrection authority speaking to a persecuted church.

Pentecostal emphasis:

- The same Spirit who raised Christ empowers believers to endure suffering.
  - Smyrna is a **resurrection church**—pressed but not crushed.
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## 2 Poverty but Rich in the Spirit

**“I know your poverty (but you are rich).”**

In Spirit-filled theology:

- Material lack does not equal spiritual lack.
- Smyrna operated in unseen kingdom wealth.
- Their treasure was eternal, not earthly.

Perseverance is rooted in eternal perspective.

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## 3 Direct Reference to Satan

**“A synagogue of Satan... the devil is about to throw some of you into prison...”**

This is explicit **spiritual warfare language**.

Pentecostal understanding:

- Persecution is not merely political—it is spiritual.
- The enemy attacks faithful, prayerful churches.
- Testing refines prophetic authority.

The church must discern:

- Not every opposition is human.
  - Some battles must be fought in prayer, fasting, and endurance.
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## 4 Spirit-Filled Understanding of “The Crown of Life”

**Key Text (AMP) — Revelation 2:10**

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Be aware that the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested [in your faith], and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful to the point of death [if you must die for your faith], and I will give you the crown [consisting] of life.**”

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## 1 What Is the “Crown”?

The word translated *crown* refers to a **victor’s wreath**, not a royal diadem. It symbolizes:

- Victory after struggle
- Public honor
- Reward for endurance

This is not a crown for status — it is a crown for **faithfulness under pressure**.

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## 2 Why Is It Called the “Crown of Life”?

It is life itself as the reward:

- Eternal life
- Resurrection life
- Unending communion with Christ

Jesus, who identified Himself as the One “who was dead and came to life,” promises participation in His resurrected victory.

The persecuted believer loses temporary life but gains eternal life.

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## 3 Pentecostal Emphasis: Faithfulness Under Fire

Notice the condition:

“Be faithful to the point of death...”

In Spirit-filled theology:

- Anointing is tested.
- Faith is refined in pressure.
- Perseverance proves authenticity.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers not just to shout in revival — but to **stand firm in suffering**.

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## 4 The Contrast in Smyrna

The church in Smyrna:

- Was materially poor
- Was spiritually rich
- Was persecuted
- Received no rebuke

They were not promised relief.

They were promised reward.

This shifts the focus from:

“Lord, remove the trial”

to

“Lord, sustain me through the trial.”

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## 5 Connection to Other Scripture

The same promise appears in **James 1:12**:

**<sup>12</sup> Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is steadfast under trial *and* perseveres when tempted; for when he has passed the test *and* been approved, he will receive the [victor's] crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.**

The crown is tied to **loving Him through hardship**.

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## Prophetic Application

The crown of life speaks to:

- Believers facing persecution
- Christians enduring private suffering
- Leaders standing for truth in hostile culture
- Saints battling unseen spiritual warfare

It declares:

Your suffering is seen.  
Your faithfulness is recorded.  
Your reward is secured.

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## The Overcomer's Promise

### Revelation 2:11 (AMP)

**“He who has an ear, let him hear and heed what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God] will not be hurt by the second death.”**

This verse concludes Jesus' message to the persecuted church in Smyrna.

## The Overcomer's Promise

### 1 “He Who Has an Ear...”

**This phrase appears repeatedly in Revelation.**

Pentecostal emphasis:

- The Holy Spirit is actively speaking.
- Spiritual hearing requires sensitivity.
- Not everyone who listens, hears.

It is an invitation to prophetic attentiveness.

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### 2 “He Who Overcomes”

**The word “overcomes” implies:**

- Ongoing spiritual victory
- Endurance under pressure
- Conquering through faith

An overcomer:

- Does not deny Christ under persecution
- Does not compromise under pressure
- Does not surrender under spiritual attack

In Pentecostal theology, overcoming is not passivesurvival — it is Spirit-empowered perseverance.

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### 3 “Will Not Be Hurt by the Second Death”

**Revelation 20:6 (AMP)**

**“Blessed and holy is the one who takes part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power or authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him a thousand years.”**

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**Revelation 20:14–15 (AMP)**

**“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was hurled into the lake of fire.”**

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## 1 What Is the “Second Death”?

The text explicitly defines it:

**“This is the second death, the lake of fire.”**

The second death is:

- Final judgment
- Eternal separation from God
- The ultimate defeat of rebellion

It follows:

1. Physical death (the first death)
2. Final judgment before God

It is not annihilation, but conscious eternal separation.

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## 2 The First Death vs. The Second Death

First Death	Second Death
Physical	Spiritual & eternal
Separation of soul from body	Separation from God’s presence
Temporary	Final
Experienced by all humans	Experienced only by the unredeemed

**Pentecostal emphasizes that salvation in Christ removes the believer from the authority of the second death.**

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## 3 The First Resurrection & Spiritual Authority

**Revelation 20:6 says:**

**“Over these the second death has no power...”**

This is legal language — authority, jurisdiction.

**Spirit-filled insight:**

- **The believer has already passed from death to life.**
- **Regeneration by the Holy Spirit secures eternal destiny.**
- **The second death has no claim on those born again.**

**The new birth cancels eternal condemnation.**

## 4 The Lake of Fire

The lake of fire is the final destination of:

- **Satan / Antichrist / False Prophet > (Revelation 20:10)**<sup>10</sup> And the devil who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and burning brimstone (sulfur), where the beast (Antichrist) and false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night, forever and ever.
- **Death and Hades > (20:14)**<sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades [the realm of the dead] were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire [the eternal separation from God].
- **Those not in the Book of Life > (20:15)** And if <sup>(a)</sup>anyone's name was not found <sup>(b)</sup>written in the Book of Life, he was hurled into the lake of fire.

**This is the ultimate victory of divine justice.**

**Pentecostal emphasis:**

- **God is both Savior and Judge.**
  - **Grace rejected results in judgment.**
  - **Hell was prepared for the devil, but human rebellion aligns with him.**
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## 5 The Book of Life

**Revelation 20:15 connects the second death to the Book of Life.**

The determining factor is not:

- Works alone
- Religious affiliation
- External morality

It is whether one's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

This underscores:

Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

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## **6 Theological Themes in Pentecostal Perspective**

### **A. Eternal Accountability**

**Choices in time have eternal consequences.**

### **B. Urgency of Evangelism**

**If the second death is real, evangelism is essential.**

### **C. Assurance for Believers**

**The Spirit bears witness that we belong to Christ.**

**The second death cannot “hurt” the overcomer (Revelation 2:11).**

### **D. Spiritual Warfare Context**

**The ultimate battle is not political — it is eternal.**

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## **7 Connection to Revelation 2:11**

**In Christ’s message to Smyrna:**

**“He who overcomes... will not be hurt by the second death.”**

To persecuted believers, this meant:

Even if Rome kills your body, eternity is secure.

This reframes martyrdom as victory.

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## **8 (Brief Overview)**

Pentecostalism traditionally holds a **premillennial** framework:

- RAPTURE
- Tribulation
- Christ returns
- Millennial reign
- Final judgment
- Lake of fire

**The second death represents final separation from God.**

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## **📍 Prophetic Application**

The doctrine of the second death should produce:

- Holy reverence
- Evangelistic urgency
- Gratitude for salvation
- Bold perseverance under persecution

It is not given to create fear in believers — but assurance.

For the redeemed:

The first death may come.  
The second death never will.

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## **Theological Significance**

### **Assurance of Salvation**

The overcomer's security is eternal.

### **Perspective in Persecution**

Temporary suffering is not ultimate defeat.

### **Victory Through Faith**

The believer's triumph is grounded in union with Christ.

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## **Prophetic Application (Smyrna)**

This verse speaks today to:

- Believers facing hostility for biblical truth
- Christians pressured by culture
- Saints enduring private trials
- Churches under governmental restriction

It reminds us: Fear loses its grip when eternity is secure.

The Spirit-filled believer lives with eternal perspective.  
We endure because we are anchored beyond this world.

**“He who overcomes... will not be hurt by the second death.”**

The first death may touch the body.  
The second death cannot touch the faithful.

**The crown of life is heaven's declaration:**

- You endured.
- You did not deny His name.
- You overcame.

**Smyrna represents:**

- The persecuted global church
- Churches under governmental pressure
- Believers facing economic marginalization

**The Spirit-filled church understands:**

- Faithfulness > comfort.
- Eternal reward outweighs temporal suffering.
- Martyrdom is not defeat but ultimate victory.

**Spirit-filled call:**

- Do not fear suffering.
- Spiritual wealth sustains endurance.
- Tribulation refines purity.
- Overcomers conquer through faith and spiritual resilience.

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## Final Reflection

**The gospel is glorious because the second death is real.**

**Jesus endured judgment so believers would not.**

**The cross absorbed wrath.**

**The resurrection secured life.**

**The Spirit-filled believer lives with this confidence:**

- **Death is defeated.**
- **Judgment is satisfied.**
- **Eternity is secured.**