



When the Spirit Speaks to the Church

ASH WEDNESDAY 2022

Revelation 2:8-11

One:

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.’”

“Simply stated, if the Bible is true (which it is) and if Jesus really rose from the dead and sent the Spirit (which He did), then there must be more... To say that something is missing is to glorify the Lord. To say that something is not lining up is to be honest before heaven. To say that what you read in the Word is different from what you experience in life is to honor the testimony of Jesus.” Michael L. Brown, *Revival or We Die*

Text Message:

- o Spend a few minutes with Verse 8 and the quote above by Michael L. Brown.

What is going on in your heart?

What would you like to say to Jesus?

What would Jesus like to say to you?

Two:

⁹ “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Text Message:

- o The church at Smyrna was in tribulation, poverty, and threats of death, ***just like some of the church around the world today!*** Smyrna means “Myrrh,” which is associated biblically with themes such as mourning, lament, and death.
- o Take a few minutes of quiet prayer for the Persecuted Church around the world. How can you remember these brothers and sisters during this Lenten Season?

Three:

¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

Text Message:

- o Like the first-century church in Smyrna, you are right here and right now occupying a place in Christ's redemptive history.
- o *Ask Jesus what He would say to you through the Spirit for "such a time as this." Does it line-up with God's written word?*