

FAITHFUL IN AFFLICTION, #2 IN SERIES: YOU'VE GOT MAIL

REVELATION 2:8-11

BUT THANK GOD! HE HAS MADE US HIS CAPTIVES AND CONTINUES TO LEAD US ALONG IN CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION. NOW HE USES US TO SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST EVERYWHERE, LIKE A SWEET PERFUME. OUR LIVES ARE A CHRIST-LIKE FRAGRANCE RISING UP TO GOD. BUT THIS FRAGRANCE IS PERCEIVED DIFFERENTLY BY THOSE WHO ARE BEING SAVED AND BY THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING. TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING, WE ARE A DREADFUL SMELL OF DEATH AND DOOM. BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE BEING SAVED, WE ARE A LIFE-GIVING PERFUME. . .
2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16

THE PRESSURE OF THE LACK OF MONEY

"FOR YOU KNOW THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKE HE BECAME POOR, SO THAT YOU THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BECOME RICH."
2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

THE PRESSURE OF PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

"DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY BUT CANNOT KILL THE SOUL. RATHER, BE AFRAID OF THE ONE WHO CAN DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL." MATTHEW 10:28

THE PRESSURE OF EMOTIONAL PAIN

"WHOEVER DOES NOT TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME. WHOEVER FINDS THEIR LIFE WILL LOSE IT, AND WHOEVER LOSES THEIR LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT."
MATTHEW 10:38-39

THE PRESSURE OF THE ENEMY

"I AM SENDING YOU OUT LIKE SHEEP AMONG WOLVES. THERE BE AS SHREWD AS SNAKES AND AS INNOCENT AS DOVES. . . WHEN THEY ARREST YOU, DO NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO SAY OR HOW TO SAY IT. AT THAT TIME YOU WILL BE GIVEN WHAT TO SAY, FOR IT WILL NOT BE YOU SPEAKING, BUT THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER SPEAKING THROUGH YOU." MATTHEW 10:16,19-20

HOW DO WE ENDURE THIS PRESSURE?

BOLDNESS AND FAITHFULNESS

"WHOEVER ACKNOWLEDGES ME BEFORE OTHERS, I WILL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. BUT WHOEVER DISOWNS ME BEFORE OTHERS, I WILL DISOWN BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN." MATTHEW 10:32-33

"WE ALSO GLORY IN OUR SUFFERINGS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT SUFFERING PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE; PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER; AND CHARACTER, HOPE. AND HOPE DOES NOT PUT US TO SHAME, BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US." ROMANS 5:3-5

HOW CAN WE REMAIN FAITHFUL?

HOLD ONTO HIS WORD

LISTEN TO A TESTIMONY

STAY IN COMMUNITY

BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY TO SHOW THAT THIS ALL-SURPASSING POWER IS FROM GOD AND NOT FROM US. WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR; PERSECUTED, BUT NOT ABANDONED; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED. WE ALWAYS CARRY AROUND IN OUR BODY THE DEATH OF JESUS, SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS MAY ALSO BE REVEALED IN OUR BODY. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-10