

HE WALKS AMONG THE LAMPSTANDS

Part 3: Be Faithful Unto Death

September 20, 2026 | The Way Church

REVELATION 2:9-10

"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)... Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

LUKE 12:15

"Take care, and be on guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

1**Jesus Knows Your Tribulation****REVELATION 2:8-9**

Jesus introduces Himself to Smyrna as "the first and the last, who died and came to life" — the One who has already walked through suffering and death and conquered it. When life feels like weight pressing down on your chest, He meets you not as a distant King but as One who has lived it and risen from it.

2**True Wealth Is Spiritual, Not Material****LUKE 12:15-21**

Smyrna was physically poor yet spiritually rich, and Jesus warned the rich fool who built bigger barns that a life measured by possessions is a poor life, no matter the balance. Your identity, security, and peace can never be safely anchored to money, business, or status — only to Christ.

3**Faithfulness Over Self-Defense****1 PETER 2:21-23; MATTHEW 5:10**

Believers today face real slander for standing on the Word, just as the early church did. Jesus modeled the response: when reviled, He did not revile back but entrusted Himself to the Father who judges justly. Our call is to trust, not defend ourselves.

4

Do Not Fear — It Is a Command

REVELATION 2:10

Fear is not just a feeling to manage — it is a spirit to reject. It drives disobedient decisions and steals the peace God intends for His people. Trusting God, not defending yourself or living cautiously, is what produces real peace in tribulation.

5

Total, Not Partial, Loyalty

REVELATION 2:10 — BISHOP POLYCARP

Bishop Polycarp chose death over denying 86 years of faithfulness to Christ, showing that Jesus does not want a portion of our devotion — He wants all of it. The crown of life is promised to those who hold nothing back, even when faithfulness costs everything.

6

Freedom Replaces Fear

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom — not a spirit of fear, but of love and a sound mind. Today's declaration is to walk out of fear-driven decisions and into the courage and freedom Christ has already given us.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Where has your identity gotten tangled up with money, career, or possessions instead of Christ?
- Have you been defending yourself instead of entrusting your reputation to God?
- What decision have you made recently out of fear instead of faith?
- In what area is Jesus asking for ALL your loyalty rather than partial devotion?
- Like the church of Smyrna, are you prepared to remain faithful even when it costs you something?

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

REVELATION 2:10