



Sermon Discussion Questions

"The Crown of Life"

Revelation 2:8-11

November 6, 2016

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Opener:

In what area of life have you felt pressured or trapped -- spiritually or otherwise?

Questions: [The following questions are meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the selected text. Feel free to ask your group your own questions regarding the sermon or text.]

1. What problems or challenges was the church of Smyrna facing?
2. What do Jesus' words to the church in Smyrna teach about suffering?
3. What did Jesus say to comfort these Christians (v 10)?
4. What prophetic warning did Christ give to the church at Smyrna (v 10)?
5. Who else did Jesus say could benefit from the message to the church at Smyrna (v 11)?
6. What final promise was made to any one who overcomes (v 11)?

Application:

7. Is there anyone in your life you have wanted to reach out to because you have worried about them and the pressure or sense of entrapment they feel? Elaborate.
8. What can we do to help a fellow Christian who is ready to "cave in" under pressure?

As a group, spend some time together in prayer. In light of the passage, ask God to give you a renewed outlook in terms of the people around you and what they are going through. Or ask God to help you see what you are going through (in case you feel you cannot see it yourself). Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how Jesus would care for a brother or sister ready to cave in under pressure. Be alert this week to how God may guide you to give, or receive, care and affirmation.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).