

Smyrna

A Faithful Church
in the Midst
of Suffering

*"Be thou faithful
unto death, and I will
give thee a crown of life."*
Revelation 2:10



Smyrna
Faithful in
Tribulation

Differences Between the Messages to SMYRNA and PHILADELPHIA

TWO FAITHFUL CHURCHES • NO CRITICISM • EXTERNAL OPPOSITION
DIFFERENT CHALLENGES • DIFFERENT PROMISES

SMYRNA (Revelation 2:8-11)	ASPECT	PHILADELPHIA (Revelation 3:7-13)
The first and the last, which was dead, and is alive (v. 8)	 CHRIST'S IDENTITY	He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David (v. 7)
I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty (but thou art rich) (v. 9)	 COMMENDATION	I know thy works... thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. (v. 8)
Active persecution, tribulation, poverty, and imprisonment (v. 9-10)	 MAJOR CHALLENGE	Opposition from the synagogue of Satan (v. 9); limited strength and exclusion from commerce
Those claiming to be Jews but are the synagogue of Satan (v. 9)	 OPPOSITION	Those claiming to be Jews but are the synagogue of Satan (v. 9)
Poverty (but spiritually rich) (v. 9)	 MATERIAL CONDITION	Little strength; economically marginalized (unable to buy or sell)
Fear none of those things... Be thou faithful unto death (v. 10)	 EXHORTATION	Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (v. 11)
A crown of life (v. 10-11); shall not be hurt of the second death (v. 11)	 PROMISE	An open door (v. 8); protection from the hour of temptation (v. 10); a pillar in the temple of God (v. 12)
Endurance through suffering	 FOCUS	Opportunity and authority for service
Martyrdom and reward	 ULTIMATE OUTCOME	Vindication, protection, and eternal stability

Philadelphia

A Faithful Church
with an Open Door

*"Behold, I have set
before thee an open door,
and no man can shut it."*
Revelation 3:8



Philadelphia
Faithful in
Opportunity

*Both Smyrna and Philadelphia remain faithful under pressure.
Smyrna receives comfort amid imminent suffering, while Philadelphia receives assurance of vindication and future exaltation.*

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
Revelation 3:13