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KEYS

for growth & change
Part 2

Each of these churches is receiving a letter. In the letters are several components:

- The Correspondent (*who is writing the letter*)
- The Church
- The City
- The Commendation (*the good things about the church*)
- The Condemnation (*what is bad about the church*)
- The Command (*what should be done*)
- The Counsel (*Instructions to anyone who will heed them*)

Moment of Insight from Jesus:

Church of Ephesus - REMEMBER – REPENT – REPEAT

To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death. Revelation 2:8-11

Smyrna is the SUFFERING church. Smyrna is translated in the Greek as "MYRRH".

1. **At Christ's BIRTH** - Matthew 2:11- *On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.*
2. **At Christ's CRUCIFIXION** - Mark 15:23 - *Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.*
3. **At Christ's BURIAL** - John 19:39 - *He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.*

I. JESUS SAYS, “**I KNOW**”. Verse 9

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

Moment of Insight: He is real, He is near, He knows!

II. “DO NOT BE **AFRAID**.” Verse 10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you the devil will put some of you into prison to test you and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life. Verse 10

III. “BE **FAITHFUL**” Verse 10

*Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you the devil will put some of you into prison to test you and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful** even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life. Verse 10*

*God, who has called you to share everything with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.
1 Corinthians 1:9*

*But the Lord is faithful and will give you strength and will protect you from the Evil One.
2 Thessalonians 3:3*

IV. “I WILL **GIVE YOU**” Verse 10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you the devil will put some of you into prison to test you and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life. Verse 10