



Small Group Study Notes

Suffering and Testing

Revelation 2:8-11

We sometimes use the expression, "Oh, I die for that!" to express our pleasure for food, fandom, or festival. Share with the group something you so "enjoy" that you use that hyperbolic expression?

i.e. "I'd die for another slice of my grandma's apple pie!"

The threat of death holds power over us when we (1) fear the negative more than we love the positive (2) have no hope beyond the threat itself

Read the Letter to Smyrna: Revelation 2:8-11

What was the church given to look forward to? *Hint: end of vs 10*

What was the hope the church was given after death? *Hint: end of vs 11*

Read Matthew 26:31-35

Where was Peter's confidence from vs 33?

Why do you think the disciples were not prepared for their vow in vs 35?

Read Daniel 3:13-18

What phrase reveals where their confidence was?

How does a confidence in God help you stay faithful when faced with fears?

What is the positive that God gives His church to look forward to?

What is the hope beyond the threat of death? **Ro 8:18-25; 2 Co 4:16-18**

- Why do you think it matters to Jesus that His church in Smyrna remain faithful and fearless in the face of death?
- What does their commitment to their convictions reveal about their God?
- What does it reveal to the world?

Application:

What conviction is God working on you to remain faithful and fearless?