



## Remember God's Faithfulness

### Robert Morris

**Focus** God was, is, and always will be faithful. In the letter to the church in Smyrna, God reminds believers that He is eternal, and He is faithful to us no matter what we go through in this life. And those who remain faithful to Christ no matter what life brings—even unto death—will receive the crown of life.

**Fun** What is your favorite fall food or activity?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Revelation 2:8–11; 2 Timothy 2:13

#### 1. Remember God has been faithful.

Jesus begins the letter to the church in Smyrna by reminding them that He is eternal—the beginning and the end. The church of Smyrna is often referred to as “The Persecuted Church.” God wanted to remind them that He has always been faithful, even though they were about to experience persecution. When we are going through a trial, we need to remind ourselves of the faithfulness of God.

#### 2. Remember God is faithful.

Jesus tells the church in Smyrna that they are about to suffer, and some would be thrown into prison, tested, and experience tribulation. He encourages them to be faithful until death. While this doesn't seem like an encouraging word, Jesus wanted them to know He is with them through the trial. The persecution of the church during this time in history was severe, but God's faithfulness holds steady no matter what storms may come our way.

#### 3. Remember God will be faithful.

God can never *not* be faithful. He will always be faithful regardless of the outcome of the situation we are in. There are many examples of saints in the Bible and throughout history who have been martyred for their faith. Even today,

there are countries around the world where Christians are being persecuted, tortured, and killed. Polycarp was the pastor of the church of Smyrna, and he was killed shortly after this letter came to the church. Revelation 2:10 encourages believers to be faithful unto death. If we remain faithful to Christ, we will receive the crown of life.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Serve Week is coming up at the end of the month, and all Gateway campuses will be engaging in outreach opportunities for their communities during that week. Pick one of these opportunities and have your group serve together. Not only will you bless your community and bond as a group, but you may meet other people you can invite to your small group as well. You can find all the details about Serve Week at [gatewaypeople.com/serveweek](http://gatewaypeople.com/serveweek).

### **Discuss**

1. Read Revelation 2:8–11. How would you feel if Jesus sent this letter directly to you?
2. Share about a situation you've been through in the past where God demonstrated His faithfulness to you.
3. How does remembering and thanking God for His past faithfulness give us encouragement that He will be faithful in the future?
4. What are ways we can keep the faithfulness of God at the forefront of our minds and lives every day?
5. How can God be faithful even if the outcome of a situation is different from our expectations?
6. How can we live our lives to receive the crown of life when we get to heaven?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Remember God has been faithful.
- Remember God is faithful.
- Remember God will be faithful.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You and praise You because You have always been faithful to us. You are faithful now in every situation and circumstance we are in. And we thank You that You always will be faithful to us in the future no matter what we go through. Give us the strength and grace to always live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Always be aware of the “over-talkers” and the “non-talkers” in your group. As a leader, it is your job to facilitate good conversation where everyone can contribute. If a person is an over-talker and dominates the discussion, you need to set limits and boundaries on them, or even give them a one-minute time limit to answer. If a person never speaks, you may have to call on them specifically, or ask them a follow-up question to give them the chance to share. Either way, your role as the leader is to help maintain the conversation so the whole group can engage.