

Smell of Smyrna/ The Fragrance of Faith

Revelation 2: 8-11; And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

⁹ I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

¹¹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

The word myrrh also appears exactly 17 times in the Bible. It's the crucial ingredient for making the holy anointing oil prescribed by God. First mentioned as a principal ingredient in the holy anointing oil ([Exodus 30:23](#)). It formed part of the gifts brought by the wise men from the east, who came to worship the infant Jesus ([Matthew 2:11](#)). It was used in embalming ([John 19:39](#)), also as a perfume ([Esther 2:12](#) ; [Psalms 45:8](#) ; [Proverbs 7:17](#)). It was a custom of the Jews to give those who were condemned to death by crucifixion "wine mingled with myrrh" to produce insensibility (which Jesus refused on the cross). Jesus was familiar with the fragrance of myrrh. From birth, it noted an aroma of faith as the Magi voyaged from the east to gazed upon the Messiah (The Anointed One). The recognition of Exodus 30:23 denotes holy anointing that is related to this ointment. For the believer, faith is the greatest anointing we can be covered with. The name Smyrna comes from the root work "myrrh". The church of Smyrna was a sweet smelling, expensive gift given unto Jesus. It is important to see what caused Smyrna to be this sweet-smelling savor to the One who is the First and the Last.

What is the aroma of faithfulness? What does Jesus see and smell when we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)? Jesus saw three things in the church of Smyrna; 1) their works, 2) their tribulations, 3) and their poverty. Work, tribulation, and poverty, three things most believers attempt to stay away from. Smyrna was a body of believers that did not have what the world would consider success. But, through all things **Smyrna was faithful!** What did their faithfulness look like through the lenses of Jesus? What was the reminiscent fragrance that entered His nostrils? The heart of the Church of Smyrna met the approval of Jesus. My brothers and sister, it doesn't matter the tribulation one may be dealing with, if he or she is choosing to walk with God and do as He instruct them to do Jesus sees and calls that person rich (Luke 12:21; 2 Cor. 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:18; James 2:5)!

There may be many things we will suffer, **but our faith comes before the Lord as a sweet smell of an expensive ointment when we stand fast, no matter what the situation.** Jesus made it plain that Smyrna was **going** to suffer and have tribulation. **But, untested faith is not faith at all, it is simply religious rhetoric.** Suffering, and how we journey through it is often the proving ground of faith. When we stand during trial and say, **"Lord I believe in Your Word, and choose to stand"** rich spiritual blessings flow into our lives (Eph. 1:3; Gen. 12:2,3; Isa 60: 1-4). If we get side tracked by seeing what the world may deem as success, even though we may have

stood for a while, we may begin to falter, because our focus has been directed towards an answer, and not of the **Giver** of the answer. Jesus declared to the Smyrna church that some of you might even die. But, if you keep calling on Me, if you keep calling on the only One who *can* save you, there is a crown of Life which the Righteous Judge will give each one who stands by faith. Be encouraged this week and beyond to know there is a fragrance that emanates from your faith that reminds Jesus of all the faithfulness that generations have walked in; a smell that says to Him, **“I believe in your Word, I choose to walk by faith.”**