



INTENT MESSAGING SERIES
 Part Two: “Jesus is Intent on a Steadfast Church”
 Pastor David Cannistraci ♦ November 16, 2008

Text: Revelation 2:8-11

THE _____ CHURCH AT SMYRNA

1. They suffered _____

The name Smyrna means _____—a perfume whose fragrance is released by _____.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4 (ESV)

2. They suffered _____

“We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.” 2 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)

3. They suffered _____

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven...” Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV)

REMAINING _____ IN THE FIRE

▪ Jesus calls us to be _____ in the fire.

Steadfast (Cont’d)

“Fear not... You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God...” Isaiah 43:1-3 (NKJV)

▪ Jesus calls us to be _____ in the fire.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied “...If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us... But even if he does not... we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

▪ Jesus promises a _____ beyond the fire.

“Don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.” 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT)

FATHER GOD, I thank you for being with me in the fire. Today I accept your comfort and strength for each trial I face. Forgive me for the times I’ve failed to trust you, and teach me to be a true and steadfast follower of Jesus. In His Name, AMEN

RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK’S SMALL GROUPS

Icebreaker: What’s the closest thing to persecution you’ve ever experienced? How did you get through it?

Scripture Focus: Let each member share a verse from this teaching--one that spoke to them personally. What does it mean to them?

Discussion Focus: How can we be steadfast believers this week?

Prayer Focus: Pray for each person to be strong in fiery trials.

REMEMBER to give an offering for the needy in your group this week, for God has promised us a rich reward (Det. 15:11, Psalm 41:1)