

EARS TO HEAR

REVELATION 1-3





**Ephesus: Maintain
your first love,
cultivate your
relationship with
Jesus.**



“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna. This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive:

⁹ “I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the blasphemy of those opposing you.



They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan. ¹⁰ Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.



- 1.Nero
- 2.Domitian
- 3.Trajan
- 4.Pius
- 5.Marcus
- 6.Severus
- 7.Thracian
- 8.Decius
- 9.Valerian
- 10.Diocletian

11 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death. Revelation 2:8-11 (NLT)





For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in His steps.

1 Peter 2:21

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.



1 Peter 1:6-7



So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. 14 So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. 15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

1 Peter 1:13-15



And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.”

1 Peter 1:17



You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. 1 Peter 1:22



- Prepare your minds for action.
- Exercise self-control.
- Put all your hope in God's salvation.
- Live as God's obedient children.
- Don't slip back into your old ways.
- Be holy (set-apart) in everything you do.
- Live in reverent fear of God.
- Show sincere love to each other.
- Love each other deeply with all your heart.

God, which of these do I need to focus on in order to be ready for times of persecution?



For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

1 Peter 1:23

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12 (ESV)



**We can face
persecution and
remain faithful. We
can pray for the
persecuted church.**

