

## **The challenge to Increased faithfulness**

### **Ephesians 2:8-11**

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

Revelation 2:8

“Who has performed and accomplished it, calling forth the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the Lord, am the 1st, and with the last. I am He.’”

Isaiah 41:4

“Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last and “Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together.

Isaiah 48:12-13

I know your trouble

Revelation 2:8

#### **Why God allows trouble...**

‘I know your tribulation & your poverty (but you are rich),

Revelation 2: 9

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12

#### **Why God allows trouble...**

- #1. To humble us

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Cor 12:7

#### **Why God allows trouble...**

- #2. To use us

...who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

2 Cor 1:4

### **Why God allows trouble...**

- #3 To Grow Us

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. and let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

### **Why God allows trouble...**

- #4 To deepen his reality in your life

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, Philippians 3:10

and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan. Revelation 2:9

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days.

Revelation 2:10

Be faithful until death,

Revelation 2:10

### **Faithfulness Is Dependability... Regardless Of Circumstances.**

and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

Rev 2:11

He who overcomes will not be hurt by the 2nd death.'

Rev 2:11

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14

We can't change yesterday but let's have a better tomorrow because of the decision we make today.