

# "Can you hear Me?"

LETTERS FROM GOD

## God's Letter to the Suffering Message 2

Perry Duggar  
January 26, 2020

### ► Outline

... everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer  
persecution.

**2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)**

#### A. Introduction

(Revelation 1:1-3)

#### B. The Message to the Church in Smyrna:

(Revelation 2:8-11)

1. \_\_\_\_\_:  
(Revelation 2:8. C/R: John 11:25-26; Romans 6:9; Hebrews 2:14-15)

2. \_\_\_\_\_:  
(Revelation 2:9. C/R: John 15:20; Romans 2:28-29;  
2 Corinthians 8:9; James 2:5)

3. \_\_\_\_\_:  
(Revelation 2:10a. C/R: Psalm 56:11; John 16:33;  
James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

4. \_\_\_\_\_:  
(Revelation 2:10b-11. C/R: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18;  
James 1:12; Revelation 20:6,14-15)

**Answers:** 1. Greeting 2. Affirmation 3. Challenge 4. Reward

**Resource Information:** Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

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### ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to discover more about God and develop a deeper relationship with Him. To get connected in a Small Group, visit [brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups).

#### Conversation Starter

When I was a child, one thing that scared me was \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Open with Prayer

Pause for a moment of quiet. Ask God to help you hear His voice during this week's study and reflection.

#### Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Revelation 2:8-11](#).

1. What does it mean that Jesus is *the First and the Last*?
2. Why is it important that Jesus *was dead but is now alive*?  
(See also: [Romans 6:5-14](#))
3. Why would Jesus introduce Himself with the above two descriptions to a church that was suffering persecution? What was He wanting them to know? How was He wanting them to feel?  
(See also: [1 Peter 4:12-16](#))
4. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt afraid or hesitant to share your faith? Describe the situation and how you responded.
5. What does Jesus mean when He says *I will give you the crown of life*?
6. The world we live in is growing more and more hostile to the Christian worldview. What are ways we can remain faithful?

### Soul Training

During this series through March 1, we'll focus on learning to hear God's voice using the pattern in the letters to the churches in [Revelation 2-3](#). Visit [brookwoodchurch.org/hearingGod](http://brookwoodchurch.org/hearingGod) to discover what the Bible teaches about hearing God, view an outline of the letter we're seeking to receive from God, as well as additional resources to help you hear from God.

Spend a few minutes in silence, preparing your heart to hear from God. Confess any sin and ask God to speak to you personally, in a way that helps you to know it's Him.

When you're ready, add to the *greeting* from last week, by asking God for words of **AFFIRMATION**. Ask God, *What is it about my life that brings you joy?* You might start a sentence with:

*When I look at who you are and what you do, I see \_\_\_\_\_,*  
then write the good things about you that come to mind.

This is often challenging, as our low self-esteem and feelings of guilt can make it difficult to hear affirming words from God. But if you have opened your heart to Jesus, you are now God's son or daughter. You are forgiven and deeply loved. For some encouragement, read [Psalm 103](#) and [1 John 1:1-9](#).

#### Memory Verse

... everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.  
[2 Timothy 3:12 \(NLT\)](#)

#### Daily Reading

Day 1: [Jude 17-25](#)

Day 4: [1 Peter 1:2-5](#)

Day 2: [1 Timothy 2:1-8](#)

Day 5: [Joshua 1:1-9](#)

Day 3: [Psalm 96:1-6](#)

#### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, February 2, we'll continue our series by looking at the letter God wrote to those who compromise. To prepare, read the message to the church in Pergamum, [Revelation 2:12-17](#).



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