
PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Pray for rekindled love. Pray for anyone whose obedience has quietly become duty instead of delight, that God would reignite real affection for Jesus.
- Pray for those walking through loss, illness, slander, or real cost for following Jesus, that they'd know his nearness and hold on to hope.
- Pray for courage to see our own hearts as God sees them, not just as our resume of good works makes them look.
- Pray for believers around the world facing real tribulation for Christ's name, that they'd stand firm and know the crown of life awaits.
- Pray for CVC as a church to remember where we've fallen from, repent honestly, and return to the works — and the love — we had at first.

LAYOUT OF THE LETTERS

The Credentials: Christ introduces himself using one attribute from chapter 1 that specifically addresses the churches need (think specialist, but Jesus doesn't need to farm out the work, he is a specialist in every single area).

The Diagnosis: Christ names exactly what's true of this church — good, bad, or both.

The Prescription: Based on the diagnosis, each church gets instructions - keep going (persevere), or turn around (repent).

The Response: Pulled from my week 1 points - this is the blessing for those who HEAR and KEEP. What will fill the prescription and do the therapy or ignore what the doctor says?

The Prognosis: A promise to “the one who overcomes,” custom-fit to that church’s specific battle.

4 Encouragements for Ephesus

- 1.They are a driven congregation.
- 2.They are a discerning congregation.
- 3.They are a doctrinally sound congregation.
- 4.They are a diligent congregation.

Jesus never tells Symrna that their suffering isn't real. He just reminds them that it is not final.

3 Ways to Fan the Flame of your Affections

- 1.Remember
- 2.Repent
- 3.Do (the works you did at first)



WEEK 2 - SYMBOLISM & TERMS

Seven Stars / Seven Lampstands: The stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches, the lampstands are the churches themselves.

Tree of Life: The tree from Eden humanity was barred from after the fall, guarded by a cherubim and a flaming sword (Genesis 3:22-24). Promised again to Ephesus, and fully realized in Revelation 22:2, 14. The reward isn't abstract — it's Eden, reopened.

Nicolaitans: A group whose works Jesus says he hates. There is not enough historical information to clearly know who they were or what, exactly, they taught.

Synagogue of Satan: A local Jewish community in Smyrna slandering believers, likely reporting them to Roman authorities and fueling persecution.

Ten Days: A symbol of a limited, bounded period of intense trial rather than a literal countdown.

Crown of Life: Greek *stephanos*, a reward for faithful endurance, not a grant of governing authority.

Second Death: Defined later in Revelation as the lake of fire. The eternal state of those who reject Jesus as Lord and Savior. Eternal separation from God, distinct from ordinary physical death.