

**Fearless Facing Suffering**  
**Revelation 2:8-11**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions**  
**September 27, 2020**

**Special Note:** In light of Revelation 1:3, please read the passage for this week's study questions aloud as a group before going through the questions.

1. Spend some time as a group sharing a recent or current ordeal of suffering you're experiencing. Have you ever felt like Pastor Jim's son (in the introduction) and questioned the duration of suffering?
2. Do you tend toward trust or toward struggling to believe that God is in control during suffering? If you're currently suffering, how have you seen God during the 40 days of praying and fasting?
3. In Revelation 2:8-11, Jesus describes himself as the First and the Last, the one who died and came back to life. What does this passage say about Jesus in relation to our suffering? How does this truth about Jesus change your thoughts/ideas of the suffering you're experiencing now?
4. One blessing of suffering is it reminds us that we are using the wrong grading scale. It is not numbers or influence or money or power or beauty that brings commendation from God. It is suffering. In what ways through being obedient to God has he asked you to endure suffering for his commendation? How have you been faithful during this season of suffering?
5. As a group, read Revelation 2:11. What does the second death refer to? According to Pastor Jim, in relation to suffering, how do you know you are a Christian and are not deceiving yourself about where you will spend eternity? What is it about suffering that keeps us from seeing the eternal benefit?
6. As a group, make a list of ways you can remain faithful in suffering and ways you could be unfaithful in suffering. Looking at the complete list, which side best resembles you in suffering?

What are some things you and your group could do to encourage one another in suffering? Pray for one another for endurance and faithfulness in suffering.