HEARING WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCH

Seven Churches
May 10, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Revelation 2:1-11
- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- Revelation 1:10-20

KEY POINTS

- Jesus is actively present in His Church, walking among the lampstands and speaking directly to His people through the Holy Spirit.
- Repentance is not punishment but the pathway to restoration, renewed works, and the promise of eating from the Tree of Life.
- In the face of tribulation and persecution (as with Smyrna), Jesus sees our suffering, calls us not to fear, and promises the crown of life to those who are faithful unto death.
- Self-examination is essential: believers must regularly test whether Jesus Christ truly lives in them through love, hatred of sin, repentance, love for the Church, and a heart for the lost.
- True faith produces visible fruit—forgiving love, genuine repentance, commitment to the body of Christ, and zeal to reach the lost—because salvation always leads to transformation.
- The Holy Spirit is still speaking to the Church today; those who have ears must listen, repent where needed, and overcome so they will not be hurt by the second death.

DISCUSSION

- Looking at the letter to Ephesus, can you identify any ways your own walk with Jesus or our church family may have drifted from “first love”? What did that first love look like for you?
- Jesus commends hard work and endurance but still calls for repentance. How do you typically respond when the Lord highlights something that needs correction in your life?
- Smyrna faced real persecution and poverty yet was told, “Be faithful unto death.” What does “faithful unto death” look like in our comfortable American context?
- Pastor Bob encouraged self-examination using several tests (love, hatred of sin, repentance, love for the Church, heart for the lost). Which of these areas feels most challenging for you right now, and why?
- How can we, as a small group and church, help one another stay passionate in our first love and avoid becoming complacent or isolated?
- If someone asked you today, “Is Jesus really in you?” how would you answer, and what evidence from your daily life would you point to? What step of repentance or obedience is the Spirit prompting you to take this week?