

## IN THE PRESSURE COOKER

August 6, 2023 Revelation 2:8-11 by Bob Branch  
Standing In The Fire, part 5

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*The Glorified Jesus speaks into their tribulation*

A discipleship manual and a spiritual warfare playbook

**BIG IDEA:** When you are faithful to Jesus, living in sync with him in a world about anything but him, expect push-back and pressure—it's what happens when kingdoms collide.

**The church at Smyrna: Revelation 1:9-20; 2:8-11**

**I set the boundaries of your life, not Rome or any other gov't, culture, or person.**

"I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me." **Isaiah 44:6** (41:4; 48:12)

**"I know" I know what you are experiencing**

<sup>1</sup> **Affliction** (*thlipsis*) crushing pressure

<sup>2</sup> **Poverty**

<sup>3</sup> **Slandered.**

<sup>4</sup> **Imprisoned** for their faithfulness to Jesus

devil, *diabolos*, accuser.

**Test/prove** but also test to **improve/refine**.

<sup>5</sup> **Death.**

***These come because of your allegiance to him, and the clash of the kingdom of God with the Dragon. The collision of kingdoms creates thlipsis.***

**A crown is given**

**"But you are rich," Reality is how God sees things.**

**Your enemy is real, active and is behind accusations and adversarial attitudes.**

"Our battle is not against flesh and blood people, but against invisible evil..." **Ephesians 6:12**

**"Don't fear" Keep eyes on me, not on fear.**

**"Those who have ears"—Go to school on what I'm saying to my church in Smyrna.**

**"Second death won't harm you"—You will die once with your body, but the new you will last forever with God.**

**EV Hill:** "Those who are born once, die twice; those who are born twice, die once."

**Team Lamb** looks beyond external happenings to something invisible. They do not overreact. They ask God for and adopt his way of seeing things. They realize that an invisible enemy is behind much of what assails us in life. They have laid down their fear of death—and are becoming fearless. They anchor into Jesus' current reign, majesty, and perspective.

**Team Dragon** seeks to manipulate, control, threaten, hurt, accuse and condemn. The Dragon is behind accusation and adversarial relationships & attitudes. He is not in charge, although it appears to have a lot of latitude. he pumps up death, and the fear of dying.