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Week 8 – The Church in Philadelphia

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### Introduction:

Revelation 3:7-9

### Four Promises Given to Philadelphia

1. Jesus promises \_\_\_\_\_(vs. 9)

*“...I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”*

2. Jesus promises \_\_\_\_\_(vs. 10)

*“...I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”*

See also 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:16-18

3. Jesus promises \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11)

*“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown...”*

See also 1 Thessalonians 2:19

4. Jesus promises \_\_\_\_\_(vs. 12)

*“I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God...”*

### The Big Idea:

The Philadelphian church had only a “little strength” – but they relied on the strength of God for their endurance. We cannot win the spiritual battles of life by relying on what “little strength” we have, but when we cast fully immerse ourselves in dependence upon Christ, we walk in victory.

### QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

**Personal Life:**

1. Re-read the passage (Revelation 3:7-13), making note of the key promises and commendations given by Jesus. How do these reflect God's character and intentions for your life personally? Discuss...

**Ponderings:**

2. Various Scriptures talk about believers receiving "crowns" and "reward" in the Kingdom of Heaven (Rev. 3:11). How is eternal reward different than the gift of eternal life received only by grace through faith? Discuss...
3. Verse 12 mentions victorious believers being made a pillar in the temple of God. How might this imagery relate to our identity in Christ and our role in His Church today?
4. What promises in this passage stand out to you most personally, and how do they speak into your current life circumstances?

**Promptings:**

5. The qualities of the Philadelphian church were commended by Jesus in the face of persecution (i.e. faithfulness, endurance, obedience). Persecution looks different in 21<sup>st</sup> century America than it did in the Roman Empire, but how are WE specifically called to faithfulness, endurance and obedience today? Try to be as specific as possible...