

## It's Not Easy—All The Time

The clearest two proofs of truly *living as a believer* is love and \_\_\_\_\_; having the willingness to endure.

*In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,* 2 Timothy 3:12  
*I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, ...*  
Revelation 1:9

Believers must have **C** \_\_\_\_\_, **C**ompassion and **C**ourage. All 3 based in a *profound Confidence*.

### 7 Reminders of Who God Is: *Comforting & Strengthening*

**He is Eternal** “The First and the Last” 2:8

*... without beginning of days or end of life, ... Hebrews 7:3*

**He is Victorious** “died and came to life again” 2:8

*... so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- Hebrews 2:14*

**He is All-Knowing** “I know your afflictions” 2:9

*... for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.*  
Psalm 31:7

**He is Real** (not materialistic) “poverty, yet you are rich” 2:9

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ... Matt. 6:20*

**He's in** \_\_\_\_\_ (limits difficulty) “for ten days” 2:9

*There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.*  
Proverbs 21:30

**He's Purposeful** “will not be hurt at all by the second death” 2:10

*... The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*  
1 John 3:8

**He's** \_\_\_\_\_ “I will give you the crown of life” 2:10

*... with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.*  
Ephesians 1:7-8

## Four Common Types of Trials ~ *caused by Belief*

[Not to be confused with the normal challenges of life]

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ taken from or sacrificed; Emptied 2:9

Compared to the wealth of the city, it seemed to emphasize all they didn't have.

**D** \_\_\_\_\_ “*slander*” Falsely Portrayed 2:9

The word Devil means accuser or slanderer.

May we guard ourselves from being those who speak \_\_\_\_\_ of others. Matt. 12:36

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ loss of freedoms 2:10

In great darkness, *light* of even a small amount, will be noticeable and \_\_\_\_\_.

**M** \_\_\_\_\_ [countless ways] 2:10

### True Story:

Bishop Polycarp, was a boy present in the Smyrna Church for the reading of this letter. At age 86, in about 156 A.D. was captured and told to denounce his faith. He is known for not being tied to the stake, but was \_\_\_\_\_ burned for his faith.

### One Heavy Questions:

Money, Image, Freedom, Life

Which of these (if any) do you find more \_\_\_\_\_ than your faith? That's where your \_\_\_\_\_ lies.

**Optional Readings:** *Notice Courage from Confidence & Commitment*  
**Joshua** 1-11, **1 Chronicles** 17 **2 Chronicles** 15-17