



February 8, 2026

Kevin Sneed

Revelation 3:7-13

Introduction: This sermon reflects on Revelation 3:7–13 and Jesus’ letter to the weak yet faithful church in Philadelphia, a community shaken by both persecution and literal earthquakes. Jesus is revealed as the Holy and True One who holds the key of David, assuring believers that faithfulness—not strength—is what he honors. The message encourages believers to endure suffering with patience, embracing weakness and leaning on Jesus and the community of believers. Kevin reminds us that Jesus understands our suffering because Jesus himself was a man of sorrows who experienced the full range of human pain. The sermon closes with the hope of Revelation 21–22, which remind us that our present trials are part of a larger story that culminates with God making all things new.

Key Texts: Revelation 3:7-13, 2 Corinthians 12:9, John 16:33, Psalm 23

Icebreaker: Describe a time when you have seen someone with “little strength” display the power of God? How did this encourage you?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Revelation 3:7-13** aloud as a group. Spend a few moments quietly reading through the passage once more individually, and take note (on the back of this sheet) of what stands out to you. What do you notice about God’s heart in Jesus’ word? How would you summarize the encouragement He gives the church in Philadelphia?
2. **Re-read verses 7-8.** Jesus describes Himself as the one who “holds the key of David” - He is the one who grants us access to God. How does knowing you have direct access to God’s presence encourage you in this current season? What has it looked like for you to personally encounter God in the midst of struggle?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.** Jesus tells the church in Philadelphia, “I know you have little strength” - not in a critical way, but with sensitivity, empathy, and grace. How might God be inviting you to “embrace weakness” so that His power

can be displayed in and through you? Is there a circumstance of struggle where He is gently encouraging you to “endure patiently” and allow Christ to carry you through the desert from stream to stream?

4. **Revisit Revelation 3:11.** What do you think it practically means to “hold onto Jesus” when you are going through a difficult season where everything feels uncertain?
5. Kevin shared about how his spiritual director, when he was in a challenging and painful season, encouraged him to empathize with Jesus’ suffering. How might reflecting back on Christ’s willingness to suffer on our behalf change the way we process our trials?
6. **Revisit verses 12-13.** What encourages you personally from these verses? Jesus promises “I am coming soon.” How does the promise of Jesus’ return provide hope even when the timing seems uncertain?
7. What would it look like for you to heed Kevin’s encouragement to “hold on to community” in this season? What help or support might you need in this season? How can we as a community group be praying for you?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus is drawn to those with little strength (the people on the margins, those facing pain and hurt) - to the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3).
- We have direct access into the very presence of God through Jesus, who holds the key of David.
- Enduring patiently through trials requires holding onto both Jesus and the community of believers.
- Jesus can empathize with our suffering because He poured out His divinity to become fully human and walk through the full human experience - vulnerability, pain, betrayal, injustice, death.
- God is the Good Shepherd who doesn’t pluck us out from suffering, but He is the One who walks with us through it and promises not to leave.

Notes