

# The 2 churches Jesus blessed---

*Of the 7 churches Jesus addressed in Revelation 3 only 2 of them, the church at **Smyrna and Philadelphia** received no correction or warning.*

*And yet the church at Smyrna was called "**poor**" and the Philadelphia church "**little strength**". Could it be that these two characteristics were not liabilities at all but blessings?*

***Poor:** In today's church world, "poor" is considered a curse, yet Jesus said, "blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". **Poor in spirit is another way of saying "humble"**. Humble people have their eyes off of self and on the Lord. Ask God to do this mighty work in you life this new year. Remember God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

***Little strength:** The second church honored had little strength. Jesus was saying they were small in their own eyes, they knew they were nothing within themselves, they were not puffed up. Isn't this what Paul said when a messenger of Satan attacked him? He sought the Lord for it to go away and God's answer was "my strength is perfect in your weakness". **We don't see many times that our weakness is our best asset.***

*Only when you're so weak you don't know what to do, do you come to the end of self and reach for God!*

*So for this New Year, things on the surface may not be looking very good, but underneath down where it counts, God is there and he is working mightily in your poorness and your weakness! Come to the conclusion Paul did when he said "therefore I will boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me".*

*Pastor Chambers*

## **Getting aggressive even violent!**

*We never connote violence to be in the will of God. But there is a verse that says, "the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force". **This is a description not of fleshly temper and throwing fists**, but a holy passion, an anger directed at Satan and his works. God only moves through red hot prayers. It is the effective **earnest** prayer of a righteous person that avails much. I urge us all to mount an attack this next week Jan. 18-22! Lift your shoulders, your head square, and come out swinging God is on your side you can't be defeated you won't be denied!*

*Pastor Chambers*

# Coming Events

## **Prayer Revival**

**Jan. 18-22**

**Nightly 7-8pm**

## **Crandall Brothers**

**Sunday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30am & 6:00pm**

## **Choir, Royal Rangers, Missionettes**

**Resume regular schedule on**

**Wed., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **Youth Camp**

**Feb. 19, 20, 21**

## **The Needhams**

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30am & 6:00pm**