

**Revelation 3:1-6 (NIV)** "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

<sup>2</sup> **Wake up!** Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> **Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. <sup>4</sup> **Yet you have** a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

<sup>5</sup> **He who** overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> time, the Lord thru John writes to a local pastor, revealing things about the church he pastors.

Very little positive to say about Sardis.

**Revelation 3:1-6 (NIV)** "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. We've talked about 7 stars = 7 pastors

**7 spirits of God = the fullness of the Spirit... the people of Sardis (and we) need all this!**

**Isaiah 11:2 (NLT2)** And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

1. The Spirit of Lord

2. The Spirit of wisdom

3. The Spirit of understanding

4. The Spirit of counsel

5. The Spirit of might/power

6. The Spirit of knowledge

7. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord

**REV. 3 1b** "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."

When people look at you... you look good, sound good, act good, but inwardly, you're on your death bed.

**DECADES AGO..UNCLE LOUIS... FULL OF LIFE... YET FULL OF CANCER. You look alive, but inside you're near death.**

**REPUTATION OF BEING ALIVE BUT YOU ARE DEAD!**

You look good...act alive. You've got the terminology down. Your Facebook posts look like you're a spiritual giant. But from My standpoint, you're spiritually dead, not alive!!! GOD: "I KNOW YOUR TRUE INSIDE CONDITION!"

Like Pharisees, their outer appearance was a façade, hiding their lack of life, spiritually.

**Matthew 23:27-28** "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. <sup>28</sup> **Outwardly you** look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.



**Sardis was an** extremely wealthy city. Industries included jewelry, dye, and textiles (fabric for clothes, and rags, ropes, etc). **Sardis, like Ephesus** also had a temple of Artemis—a center of pagan worship. The king's palace was located on a mountain peak, and was known as the safest, securest fortress in the world at that time. It had never been penetrated by a foreign aggressor, as it also had a very strong military presence. **With all that** richness and power, the people of Sardis became very smug, thinking

that no one could come against them. Yet, they didn't realize their geology was changing. **Over many years**, the earth shifted, causing cracks to form in the foundation and surroundings of the city. In their pride, they were not paying attention to their foundations, and their enemies found the cracks.

A man was telling about his new house. After some time, a crack developed in his hallway. He called a painter to come patch the wall and repaint. Job done. A few months later, another crack developed—same place. This time the man came back out and for free, fixed the crack. A few months later another crack...worse than before. He called a different guy. This guy looked at it—and after awhile said “sir, I’m not going to be able to help you. The crack you see is a symptom of your problem.



**Your problem is caused by a bigger problem—it’s may be what your house is built on.**

- **Foundation is settling**—wasn’t deep enough, or it was poured on unstable ground.
- Main girder beams are sagging/bowing under the weight of the home.
- **Floor joists** sloping—not enough support...trying to hold too much.
- Beams or joists are crushing under the weight of the home.
- **Faulty or weak** materials.
- Other reasons as well.

**As followers** of Jesus, we’re secure with Jesus Christ as our Foundation! But if we’re not careful—if we don’t maintain a deepening relationship with the Lord, allowing Him to daily wash us and make us new, cracks can develop. Before you know it, we’ve compromised. **Compromise is** a crack that allows the enemy of our soul access to us. These cracks begin to sap the life out of us. While a bombshell can derail our faith, most of the time it is leaving our faith unattended or unguarded. Faith must constantly be attended, nourished, strengthened and added to!



- **1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)** “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

**2 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)** His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4 Through** these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**YOU CAN GET CORRUPTED. BY LACK OF MAINTENANCE... BY ASSOCIATION WITH THOSE WHO CORRUPT YOU.**

**5 For this very** reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7** and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. **LIFELINE HAS A WHOLE STUDY ON THIS!**

**8 For if you** possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9 But if anyone** does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. **10 Therefore,** my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**WHAT A LIFELESS CHURCH ... A NEAR-DEATH CHRISTIAN NEEDS IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN ALL HIS FULLNESS AND A GOOD SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.**

**Revelation 3:2-3 (NIV)** Wake up! **[LORI--SLIDE OF AN ALARM (WITH OBNOXIOUS SOUND)]** **Strengthen what** remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. **3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.**

They’ve forgotten... they’ve quit obeying it... they need to repent...turn around!

**If we’re not** abiding in the Vine, we will die. A dying church has detached itself from the Vine and is operating out of its own understanding...its own power. **SARDIS...IT’S TIME FOR A CHURCH-WIDE TURNAROUND.**

**The Lord** wants our love, our desire for Him to grow... until the culmination of our wedding day with Him!!!

**A lifeless church (Christian) needs to do the following:**

Get back to praying...and obeying!

Pursue a fresh, daily infilling of the Holy Spirit

**Needs to test** itself—what the fruit of the Spirit are you displaying... or lacking?

Get back into the Word...reading it, AND living it! Be washed, cleansed—take care of impurities NOW!

**But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.**

**He could come** and shake you up today, expose your sin...your lifelessness. He desires all of us!

OR... YOU COULD ENTER INTO ETERNITY IN YOUR SPIRITUALLY DEAD STATE—YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR HOUR!

**1 Thessalonians 5:2-6 (NLT2)** “For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> **When people** are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. <sup>4</sup> **But you** aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. <sup>5</sup> **For you** are all children of the light and of the day; we don’t belong to darkness and night. <sup>6</sup> So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.

<sup>4</sup> **Yet you have** a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their garments.

There are some who have not defiled their garments...gotten their spiritually white clothing dirty. <https://www.boldsky.com/home-n-garden/improvement/2014/remove-mud-stains-from-white-clothes-047060.html>



**They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.**

Some people have stayed clean/cleansed. They’ve applied a regular spiritual maintenance plan. **DRESSED IN WHITE** – Same thought as Jesus (& others) on Mount of Transfiguration (shining in brilliance)!

**NOW, AS JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WHOLE CHURCH!**

In that day, victors of a battle paraded through the city, wearing white.

<sup>5</sup> **He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white.**

**The overcomer [to subdue, conquer, overcome, prevail].** People who consistently overcome...stay on track! Anyone can get off track... young ones not established, those who are careless, those who let trials get the best of them, seasoned Christians who get apathetic. Overcomers stay clean...maintain the fire of the Lord... stay doctrinally pure... continue to obey the Lord... are not deceived.

Mark 8:38 “If you are ashamed of me and my words while living among sinful and faithless people, then I, the Son of Man, will also be ashamed of you when I make my appearance with my holy messengers in the glorious splendor of my Father!”

<sup>5b</sup> **I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.**

**#1 – the church at Sardis had a name (reputation) of being alive. The church in Sardis is in jeopardy of losing their status of a living church—therefore, losing their status as a church.**

**#2—Individually, potentially lose their salvation? ... At salvation, name written in the book of life.**

<sup>6</sup> **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

The letter to Sardis is a searching message to churches today that are full of activity and housed in beautiful buildings but are so often lacking in evidence of eternal life. Christ's word today is to "remember," "repent," and "obey," just as it was to the church in Sardis.