



OVERCOMERS

OVERCOMERS - PART 14

In this next resource the church at Sardis doesn't get a favourable report at all, in fact it is one of the worst reports along with the church of Laodicea that Jesus gives His church. As we have done previously, let's unpack these key verses in relation to this people.

Revelation 3:1-6 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

What is alarming as a whole in relation to this people group, is that Jesus is telling them they are asleep to Him and His works, even though they are wide awake and are very busy doing a whole lot of works as a church, but not works in Him or from Him.

Wow, what a common issue this is today also for many followers of Jesus, especially leaders who lead these kinds of churches, leaders who are burnt out, burning out and exhausted, all in the name of Jesus, leading their followers into this death trap as well.

The scriptures declare it as the blind leading the blind. Let's look at verse 1 and the words of love from Jesus to His church, His believers.

I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

I know your deeds – wow. Jesus knew exactly the deeds they did and He knows the works we do that are of Him or of us. Although we may think and believe everything we do is for and from Him, He knows and He informs them, that the works they were doing in His name were of themselves. He says "you have a name that you are alive, but it's the complete opposite" He says "you are dead". What a rebuke from love! God disciplines those He loves so they can turn to Him, as they have left Him.

It's right here I want to ask us all a question. Are we in fact spiritually asleep when we think and believe we are spiritually alive? Are we in fact in forms of godliness - religious ceremonies, having our reverence for God in our traditions learnt by rote, as opposed to being in the truth of Godliness, having our reverence for God coming from the unseen realm, just as Moses did.



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Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Massive questions we must ask ourselves and have others ask us. It's way too easy to think and believe we are alive spiritually and not asleep, because of all the traditions and forms we keep.

Let's look at verse 2 now.

Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

WAKE UP!!!!!!!!!! If Jesus is telling you to wake up, then you are in fact asleep to Him and His Will. The single most important purpose of an alarm clock is to wake you up in the morning, so you don't sleep in and MISS OUT on what the day has in store, or the event or the thing which you had planned to do or watch. Along with waking up there is the instruction given to strengthen what does remain which was also about to die. This church is not in a healthy spiritual condition of heart at all, and Jesus gives them a warning that their deeds, although looking impressive, were not completed in His sight.

It doesn't matter how big, glamorous, flashy, dynamic or significant OUR DEEDS are, they are all irrelevant if they are not works that have come directly from Him, being centred, inspired, enabled, empowered and led by Him. They are futile and will be burnt up.

We see in Verse 3 Jesus gives this church a warning which has a consequence associated with it...

Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

Why is it so essential to WAKE UP? Because if one is asleep when the Christ returns, one will not be found ready and prepared for why He is returning. A follower who has spent their life asleep to the Will of the Father, while believing they are awake and living for it through their works, as previously mentioned, will completely miss their chance to receive the REWARD that Christ is returning with.

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

Only those who are awake and are living the obedient, faithful life unto the Christ, living for His Will alone, will find themselves being rewarded. This is what verse 4 is all about.

But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.



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How many people in Sardis had not soiled their garments? A FEW, not many. The scriptures say many are called but only few are chosen. This is not a justification issue, but a maturity one. Those who are maturing are not soiling their garments, but they are worthy to walk with Him in white. This word 'worthy' is the same word where Jesus says if you love self or another more than Me, you are not worthy of Me.

Once again this is not a justification issue but a reward, an inheritance one. It is those who overcome who are clothed in the white garments, the bridal garments, and these people never run the risk of having their name removed from the book of life, but Jesus will confess their name before His Father and angels.

But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Are you able to hear what the Spirit is saying through these verses? Are you able to hear the powerful testimony of Jesus Christ to His church here? Can you hear the Spirit speaking to you personally, not the person beside you? What are you hearing? What is He saying?

The key words to the church at Sardis are WAKE UP, you are DEAD, believing you are ALIVE. There is only a FEW who are AWAKE and ALIVE.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be asleep to Jesus and His works?
2. The Church at Sardis had a name for being alive and believed they were alive but Jesus tells them they are dead! How can we know that we are not just believing we are awake/alive in Him?
3. What are the differences between God's works and our works done in His name? Can you share testimony of the difference between the two?
4. What are the garments that the few did not soil? How can these garments get soiled?
5. ***But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.*** What makes them worthy? What are they worthy or not worthy of?