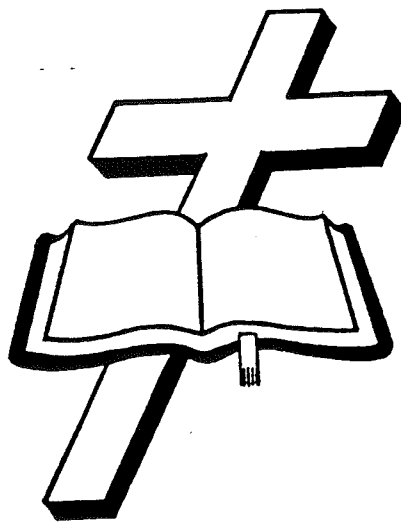


# RESTORED BACK TO LIFE

(4 Absolutes That God Will Use To Revive The Soul)  
Revelation 3:1-6



**“AS A THIEF I WILL RETURN”**

- ◆ The Character
- ◆ The Condition
- ◆ The Calling
- ◆ The Crown

“Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die”  
(Revelation 3:2)

Bill Kirk

# "RESTORED TO LIFE ONCE AGAIN"

**Text:** Revelation 3:1-6

**Subject:** "Decisions That Take Us From Death To Life"

## Introduction

1. Sardis was a city about 50 miles East of Smyrna and 30 miles Southwest of Thyatira.
2. It was the capital of Lydia and located on a commercial trade route.
3. The city itself stood 1,500 feet above the main roads (and was a strong fortress because of its location).
4. Two times, Sardis had been overcome and conquered by the enemy.
  - ◆ Once by Cyrus of Persia.
  - ◆ Once by Alexander the Great.

**Question:** Pastor, how did this mighty fortress fall into the hands of the enemy.

**Answer:** Both times for the same reason:

- ◆ The city failed to post adequate watches to overlook the city walls.
- ◆ Both times when it was conquered, the sentries let down their guard.
- ◆ This is why Jesus used familiar language to Sardis. (Things like:)  
"Be watchful" "I'm coming as a thief" "Remember" (and) "Hold fast"

**Fact:** The message of Jesus to Sardis believers, is so relevant to believers here today.

**Question:** What does it mean to be "dead" in verse 1?

**Question:** How do we "strengthen what remains" in verse 2?

**Question:** What does it mean to "remember" in verse 3?

**Question:** What does it mean to "walk in white" in verse 4?

**Question:** Why will Jesus "confess your name" in verse 5?

**Question:** And what difference does it all make in your life and mine?

(Let's Discover Together What It Means)  
"To be restored to life once again"

**Ask:** How many of you would rather be spiritually strong than spiritually weak?

**Ask:** How many of you want to be spiritually alive (as opposed to spiritually dying)?

**Ask:** How many of you desire to be ready in the hour the Lord returns?

**Ask:** How many of you want Jesus to be proud of you when He presents you to His Father?

## I. The Character Of The Believers Lord

(V. 1) "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; these things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars"

**Question:** How is Jesus described in (v.1)?

**Answer:** He is described by two character traits:

- #1. He has the seven Spirits of God (and)
- #2. He has the seven stars.

(What Does It All Mean?)

#1. The seven fold Spirits of God is a picture of the seven burning lamps in Revelation 4:5:

- ◆ It refers to the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ The word "seven" is symbolic of fullness and completion.
- ◆ It means that Jesus has the Spirit and wants believers in His church to have the Spirit.
- ◆ The church was born on the Day of Pentecost in (Acts 2).
- ◆ And the churches life comes from the Holy Spirit in our midst.
- ◆ It is the Holy Spirit that gives life, renewal and revival.

#2. The seven stars in verse 1 refers to the local pastors or messengers in the church

(It Means Two Things)

(Pg. 1 of 4)

- ◆ It means that Jesus holds the pastors in His hand to lead, feed and protect the flock of God (and)
- ◆ It means that the pastor is responsible for the spiritual condition of the church.
  - ...Responsible for what goes on . . . Responsible for what is being taught
  - ...Responsible for what the climate is . . . Responsible for what the pulse is

- #1. Jesus has the Spirit of God (and wants every believer in church to be full of the Holy Spirit)
- #2. Jesus has the seven stars or pastors (and holds them accountable for allowing His Spirit to move among His people).

- #1. Jesus has the Spirit to give without measure.

**Question:** How many of you want to live full of the Holy Spirit?

- #2. Jesus holds the pastor responsible and accountable.

**Question:** How many of you will pray that your pastor will be true to the Word?

## II. The Condition Of The Believers (V. 1)

"...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and are dead"

**Question:** Pastor, what does it mean to be dead in church?

**Answer:** The word "dead" (means;) "Void of life-giving power"

- ◆ Sardis believers had a good reputation.
- ◆ Sardis believers had a lot of good works.
- ◆ Sardis believers had an appearance of life.
- ◆ Sardis believers had good church attendance.
- ◆ Sardis believers had organization, sang songs, heard sermons, gave money and were respectable to the unsaved.

### (But One Thing Was Missing)

- ◆ The Holy Spirit's fullness and presence was missing in the lives of people in church.
- ◆ The believers had no persecution because they were not invading enemy territory.
- ◆ The believers had ceased to become dangerous to the devil. (why?)
- ◆ Because it's not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord!!!

**Fact:** There was a form of worship (but no power).

**Fact:** There was ritual and ceremony (but no power).

**Fact:** There was activity and labor (but no power).

**Fact:** There was preaching and teaching (but no power).

**Fact:** There was an indictment against Sardis believers.

- ◆ They said prayers (but didn't pray through).
- ◆ They were going to church (but not meeting God in Church).
- ◆ They were settled and content (but God wasn't settled and content).

### (Charles Swindoll Gives Five Signs Of Death In Church)

- #1. Worship of the past.
- #2. Greater concern with form than life.
- #3. Love of tradition over love for Christ.
- #4. Resistance to change in a changing society.
- #5. Loss of fervor to evangelize the lost.

### (G.Campbell Morgan Gives Four Signs Of Life In The Church)

1. Unity and union (a spirit of one accord)
2. Emotion and feeling (expressed in worship)
3. Compassion over the broken (a welcome mat for the harlot, publican and prodigal son)
4. Growth (both individually and corporately as we are edified and not entertained) (Pg. 2 of 4)

**(I Confess To You Clearly, Emphatically And Publicly)**

- #1. I want to meet with Jesus at First Assembly of God.
- #2. I want you to meet with Jesus at First Assembly of God.
- #3. I want your children to meet with Jesus at First Assembly of God.
- #4. I want your grandchildren to meet with Jesus at First Assembly of God.
- #5. I want the rich and the poor to meet with Jesus at First Assembly of God.
- #6. From the gutter most to the utter most (God wants to meet with us at First Assembly of God)
- #7. I want to be a bride prepared for the habitation of the Bridegroom.

**III. The Call Of The Believers**

**Question:** Pastor, what is the call of God to each of us from Sardis?

**Question:** What does Jesus ask us to do, to be (and stay) spiritually alive)?

**(Four Absolutes That Still Work In Verses 2 And 3)**

#1. **“Be Watchful”** (V. 2) Which means:

- ◆ To arouse yourself and become alert.
- ◆ To stir your mind and thoughts to the truth.
- ◆ To reconsider your calling and purpose as a believer.
- ◆ To come up-to-date in your spiritual life.
- ◆ To watch and live “on guard” against enemy tactics.
- ◆ To reach your potential that God has intended for you.

**Question:** How many of you are willing to maintain your devotion without compromise?

#2. **“Be Strengthened”** (V. 2)

“Strengthen the things which remain” (means:)

- ◆ There was life in Sardis (but it was feeble).
- ◆ There were still some burning coals.
- ◆ The Lord was not giving up on one person.
- ◆ The Lord sees hope and potential (when all you may see is death and hopelessness).

**(“Strengthen What Remains” Means Something Awesome)**

- ◆ It means no one is without hope of having the fire rekindled.
- ◆ It means coals going out can be revived and made new.
- ◆ It means no one here is out of reach of Jesus.
- ◆ It means you can be restored, renewed and recommissioned by the Lord.
- ◆ It means you don’t have to settle for second best.
- ◆ It means God has a plan that includes you.
- ◆ It means God has the strength if you are weak.

#3. **“Be Remembering”** (V. 3)

- ◆ “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; and hold fast”. (V. 3)

**Question:** What does it mean to remember what you have received and heard?

**Answer:** It means something that God intends to affect us inwardly.

- #1. It means to remember what God has done for you through the cross.
- #2. It means to remember how the gospel gripped you in your beginning.
- #3. It means to remember what you’ve received...

- ◆ Forgiveness from God
- ◆ Peace with God
- ◆ Power over sin
- ◆ Freedom from bondage
- ◆ Purpose and potential
- ◆ Guidance and direction
- ◆ A future resurrection
- ◆ A home in heaven

**Question:** How many of you can remember what the Lord has done for you?

#4. **“Be Repenting”** (V. 3)

“...And repent”

**Question:** What does it mean to repent?

- ◆ It means to confess the losing of our spiritual fire.
- ◆ It means to then turn from that condition and admit how much you need the Lord.
- ◆ It means to turn back to God who has the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ It means to admit how we’ve settled for less than the ultimate.
- ◆ It means to run back into the arms of Jesus (without hesitation).

(How Do We Stay Spiritually Alive?)

1. Be watchful      2. Be strengthened      3. Be remembering      4. Be repentive

**Question:** What is the glorious reward for those whose spiritual life is alive and up-to-date?

IV. **The Crown Of The Believers**

**Question:** What is the promise to the overcomer?

**Question:** What is the promise to the church within the church?

(V. 4) “Thou hast a few names even in Binghamton which have not defiled their garments”.

(What Is The Reward Or Crown For The Faithful?)

**Jesus Said:**

#1. (V. 4) “They shall walk with Me in white for they are worthy” (which means?)

- ◆ We will have the garment of righteousness and purity and innocence in heaven. (why)
  - #1. Because we trusted in the righteousness of Jesus.
  - #2. Because we lived a righteous life for Jesus.
- ◆ It means we will walk in victory in the new Jerusalem.
- ◆ It means we have everything to live for and everything to die for.

#2. (V. 5) “I will confess your name before my Father” (which means:)

- ◆ Jesus will confess that He knows your name (because on earth you were alive and confessed His name).
- ◆ Jesus will record your name in the book of life. (v.5)
- ◆ You’ll have a legal right to not be blotted out of the book of life!

**Conclusion**

**Question:** Is there anything whatsoever that God wants to strengthen in you?

**Question:** Is there anything whatsoever that is putting out your fire (and you’ll repent of it?)

**Question:** Is there any area of your life that you’ve ceased to be watchful in?

**Question:** If you knew that Jesus was coming in the next 24 hours, what would you address, change or make right?

(Altar call)

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor