



**Part 5:
...to People Whose
Faith is Dying
Rev. 3:1-6**

"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. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. 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." Rev. 3:1-3

Is there a gap between _____ and _____ ?

Three ways to bring my faith back to life:

1. _____

"Wake up!..." Rev. 3:2a

Stop living _____ !

Ask: Where has my _____ become _____ ?

2. _____
"Strengthen what remains and is about to die..." Rev. 3:2b

Ask: What brings me _____ that I can _____ ?

3. _____
"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent." Rev. 3:3

Ask: Where do I need to get _____ ?

A warning: _____
(v. 3b)

A promise: _____
"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. 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. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Rev. 3:4-6

Daily Meditations

This week's memory verse:

"...Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." 1 John 5:4,5

Monday

Look back over your notes and read Revelation 3:1-6. Write down the name of any group or movie or celebrity that has a reputation far better than its performance, in your opinion:

What is the contrast between reputation and reality for the church at Sardis?

How do you suppose Christians could fall into the trap of relying on an image rather than nurturing a daily, genuine spiritual walk?

Why is this dangerous?

If Jesus addressed a wake-up call to you, what do you think He would ask you to strengthen?

Ask Jesus to show you where you need to "wake up"!

Tuesday

Read Rev. 3:1-6 again. Jesus is saying that, for these Christians, there was a major gap between their reputation and reality. He tells them bluntly, "Wake up!" In other words, they need to stop living in denial about their situation. Let's make it personal: Where do *you* need to stop living in denial? Where do *you* see a gap between your reputation and reality in *your* life?

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My Christian life | <input type="checkbox"/> My parenting | <input type="checkbox"/> My self-control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> My finances | <input type="checkbox"/> My self-sacrifice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

If you applied Jesus' words to this church to your own situation, what practical steps could you take to change, starting today?

Ask God to help you wake up and change what needs to change, starting today!

Wednesday

Part of Jesus' instructions to the church at Sardis: "Strengthen what remains and is about to die". In other words, don't focus on what is already lost. Strengthen what is still alive, if only just barely. This is true for your spiritual life (What do I do that still gives me joy? Reading? Worshipping? Serving?), your marriage (What still brings us joy together?), your parenting (What do my kids and I love to do together?); any area of life. You find those strengths and strengthen them; this will give you momentum for deeper, more lasting change in the other areas as well.

What are the greatest areas of strength in your life, and how can you strengthen them further?

Strengths...

In my Christian walk:

In my character:

In my relationships:

In my job:

In my abilities:

In my marriage (if applicable):

In my family (if applicable):

Ask God to help you strengthen what remains!

Thursday

Read James 1:22-27. What is the practical reason for looking into a mirror?

How is this similar to the reason we look into the Word of God?

What is the point of James' mirror analogy? How does this reflect Jesus' words to Sardis?

What one truth from God's Word have you put into action this week?

What truth from God's Word keeps popping out at you which you have so far refused to put into practice consistently?

Ask God to help you put His Word into practice! Thank Him for the gift of His Word.

Friday

Read Matt. 23:1-10, 25-28. How is Jesus' warning here similar to His warning to the church at Sardis?

In all the passages we've looked at this week in Rev, 3, James 1, and Matt. 23, the theme has been similar: Reputation vs. reality. As the Holy Spirit has worked in your heart through the Word, what anything hit close-to-home for you this week?

Read next week's "postcard from Jesus", Rev. 3:7-13. What about this passage hits home for you? What would you like to have explained?

Ask God to give you insight as you listen to the message this weekend, and to enable René to teach this passage clearly!

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!