

THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS: HE HAS THE DIAGNOSIS AND THE PERFECT REMEDY

Houses of Light Church • January 9, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

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. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. What would you do if you could have the perfect diagnosis and prescription for perfect health? That is what Jesus is doing with his Church, He shows us our condition because he loves us and does not want to present perfect before the Father.
- B. As people accustomed to routines, we follow the normal rhythm of life day after day, but without realizing it we can lose sight of what is happening inside us. This is what happened to the Sardis church, they had a good image of themselves and the reputation of a growing ministry yet they were spiritually dead and had not realized it. **The point is not how I feel or how others see me but rather to connect with what Jesus sees and accept the remedy that he gives me.**

II. WHAT DOES JESUS SEE?

- A. **"you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead"** Believers and ministries can have confidence in their reputation, and people celebrate their great numbers and famous events, but the Lord says: "spiritually, you are dying." Yes they were born again, but Jesus is saying that there is no spiritual beat in his ministry. **This lack of perception can happen in any relationship, a marriage, friendship, work relationship, etc.**
- B. **For any of us it can be very surprising to know about something serious that is happening to us and that we have not realized and therefore we can incur in denial or self-justification.** So the question is: how are you really? What's going on behind your face Jesus is saying: everyone can think that you are a Christian, even yourself, but you have not had a spiritual life for a long time. In this case there is a way we can pray: **Lord shock me now. Don't surprise me when I'm in front of You. If this is how you really feel about my life, tell me now so I can change it. "**
- C. In our case we could be active, but not alive before Him. A person can be part of a church, but at the same time spiritually dead, we could be using our service to earn God's favor without knowing that we already have it, we must serve Him, **but first**

we have to love him and loving him implies being willing to believe that what he sees of us is the truth Jesus speaks from a position of love.

III. **ADVICE FROM JESUS:** Maybe you grew up like me in a culture of condemnation, but He is not like that; He wants to correct us so that we can get out of the deception into which we could have fallen.

1. ***“Wake up!”: Watching is being aware of what is happening around us but also of the processes in our heart. They had not realized that they were already dying although they still had some traits of spiritual life left. Jesus calls us to cultivate a lifestyle of prayer, obedience and encounter with Him. The main exhortation that Jesus gave in teaching about the end times was to “watch and pray.” (Mt. 24:42-43; 25:13; 26:38-41; 27:36)***
2. ***“Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.”*** What he is saying is, ***“You are not being moved and inspired by the Spirit. Your heart is not hungry for the Word as before.”*** There are people who are in the Church, and they are born again believers yet they can admit: ***“I am spiritually bored and numb. I’m not hungry for the Word. I am stuck in an area where I am making compromises. I don’t feel His presence. I feel like the shame and fear are captivating my emotions. Jesus talks a lot about works. I believe that what we do is important to Him that is why you emphasize a lot in what we do. The question is, how are your works?”***
3. ***“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast.”*** We need to constantly hear what Jesus is talking about because we are very attached to our ideas. We receive a lot and retain very little; and Jesus is not overlooked.
Sant. 1:22-25 “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves... ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.”
 - a. **Living in such an information-saturated culture, we settle for listening to the next sermon, podcast, etc. We are thirsty for knowledge, we have heard so many preaching that we have become immune to what he wants to tell us (we want to eat from the tree of knowledge) but not to real changes in our life.**
 - b. ***“To hold it fast” means to stand firm is to persevere in our love and obedience, responding to temptation with godly attitudes and being diligent in the work He entrusts to us. We must refuse to back down or give up.***

IV. JESUS WARNING

- A. ***“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.”*** This is a proverbial expression indicating that He comes at unexpected times and in ways that can result in loss or suffering that could have been avoided by those who cultivate a lifestyle of watching. **The danger of cooling is that we are not really prepared either for the time of his coming or with a ready heart.** Like the foolish virgins who did not cultivate the necessary oil to be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom (**Matt. 25: 11-12**).

- B. ***"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."*** Jesus knew that some had not stained their garments with spiritual laziness or compromise. Not because you are living in a context where many are spiritually dead you have to live the same.

V. HOW DOES JESUS PRESENT HIMSELF?

- A. The fullness of who Jesus is is sufficient for us no matter what condition we are in; the question then is whether we can recognize what is happening to us.
- B. ***"him who holds the seven spirits of God"*** The seven Spirits of God speak to them of the total work of the Spirit which is exactly what we need to overcome spiritual decay. Jesus works in the seven aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in His people so that they have a vibrant life in Him.

Isa. 11:2 "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."

- C. ***"The seven stars in his hand"*** This was the same description that Jesus gave to the first church (Rev. 1:20). The seven stars refer to the leaders and although He identifies or focuses on the leaders in this, we know that everything He does with the leaders, He does it with his people in general. He holds them in his own hand and that gives us hope that he is not going to let us go, because he does not want to let us go or that we die spiritually. He is not speaking to those who do not know him, but to those who are in His hands to those who have believed in Him but that he wants to do something better in us.

VI. THE REWARDS JESUS PROMISES

- A. ***"The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white."*** Jesus promised three rewards to this church for those who overcome spiritual death by maintaining a life of watching and praying:
1. ***dressed in white***: These garments are not the same as the free gift of justice. Justification is a gift by faith based on the dignity of Jesus, not ours (Eph. 2:8-9). The different garments of the saints in the age to come are related to their godly choices in this age (Rev. 19:8). The word, white, speaks of the brilliance of his heavenly garments. Believers will have varying degrees of brilliance with each different type of clothing that will have its unique design, fabric, color, and fragrance to reflect one's obedience in this age.
 2. ***"I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life"*** The name of a person before God is associated with his actions and honor. The books of heaven contain vast information about our lives, including our words and deeds. Our good works are recorded in heaven, but they are erased if we turn away from them. Ezekiel taught that a righteous man who turned from his righteousness would die. This gives us an idea of how God "remembers and forgets." God remembers the good in which his people continue, but he "forgets" the good from which they depart (Ezek. 3:20; 18:24; 33:13, 20). Eternal rewards, crowns, and potential full rewards can be lost.

3. *"I will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels"* This is not a reference to being saved, but to Jesus' reward telling the story of your love and dedication to the Father many times throughout eternity..

VII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In your spiritual life, do you consider that there is something that is dying in you?
2. How can you apply Jesus' advice for revival in your life?
3. How do Jesus' attributes and his rewards for those who overcome encourage you?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSES OF LIGHT SCHOOLS RESTART CLASSES MONDAY, JANUARY 24 7:00 P.M. • REGISTER TODAY AT THE ENTRANCE OR ONLINE. [www. housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)

GROWTH SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

- **AFFIRMING YOUR STEPS (online):** 13 Basic education classes for new members with advisors and support groups.
- **DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL (online):** You need to belong to a Friendship Group and have completed Affirming Your Steps
 - Level 1: Biblical Foundations and Marriage
 - Level 2: Biblical Foundations II and Family
 - Level 3: Sermon on the Mount • Intimacy with God and the Holy Spirit

◆ ADVANCED SCHOOLS

- **INTRODUCTION TO THE HOUSE OF PRAYER:** 10 face-to-face and online classes with advisors and practical experience in the Prayer Room.
- **TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP:** 10 face-to-face classes on how to grow as a leader in a Culture of prayer with Reflection Groups.
- **PARENTING SCHOOL:** 13 Online classes on Wednesdays for parents of young children or teenagers.
- **HOUSE OF RESTORATION:** 1-year online program to overcome character problems and addictions; Thursday and Friday 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

FIRST YOUTH SERVICE: This Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. All Junior High and High School youth are welcome.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE: All parents are invited to see what our children are learning. Saturday, January 22 9:00 a.m.

CLOTHING DONATIONS: We are going to send clothes to immigrants who are suffering from the cold on the Tijuana border. Please bring clothes in good condition and classified.