

The background of the image is a photograph of a highly ornate, classical-style church dome. The dome is covered in intricate carvings and mosaics, with a central finial. The architecture is detailed with scrolls, acanthus leaves, and other classical motifs. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is overlaid on this image.

REVIVING THE DEAD CHURCH

THE CHURCH OF SARDIS -- REVELATION 3:1-6

APRIL 10, 2024

REVIVING THE DEAD CHURCH

- **Sardis was a “Morgue with a Steeple”**
- **A Church That Had A Decent Reputation --
But One That Jesus Said Was Dead.**

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- **Revelation 3:1–6 (NIV)** — 1 “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.

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1. The City & Church

- *Sardis was about thirty miles from Thyatira.*
- *It was one of the richest cities in the entire world.*
- *The more wealth it gained, the more greatness it lost.*

The Church At Sardis Was Not Threatened By Any Dangers Or Perils.

- It was completely untroubled from without and within.
- The church was at peace, but it was “*the peace of the DEAD!*”

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2. Christ: The Creator Of The Letter—3:1a

Revelation 3:1 (NIV) — 1 “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...

- *A Lifeless And Dying Church Needs To Look At Jesus Christ*
- *What The Dying Church Needs -- Jesus Holds In His Hands*

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Live Churches Vs Dead Churches

- *Live churches are constantly changing — Dead churches won't change*
- *Live churches have lots of noisy kids — Dead churches are quiet.*
- *Live churches improve for the future — Dead churches worship the past.*
- *Live churches focus on people — Dead churches focus on programs.*
- *Live churches evangelize — Dead churches fossilize.*

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*The Difference In Living And Dying Churches Has To Do
With The Activity Of The Holy Spirit In The Church*

- In Many Christian Circles The Holy Spirit Is Either Neglected, Forgotten, Or Misunderstood.
- The Holy Spirit -- Given To Unite The Body Of Christ -- Is The Center Of Controversy In Many Churches

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A Dying Church Needs The Spirit Of God.

- **John 16:13 (NIV)** — 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

A Dying Church Needs Revival, The Fire Of The Spirit.

- **Matthew 3:11 (NIV)** — 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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A Dying Church Needs The Power Of The Spirit.

- **Acts 1:8 (NIV) — 8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- **Jesus Has In His Hands What We Need In The Church**
- *Jesus Offers The Perfect Fullness Of The Holy Spirit.*

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3. The Circumstances—3:1b

- **Revelation 3:1 (NIV)** — 1 “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.
- *The Lord Warns Them, "I Know Your Works."*
- *They Had A Reputation For Being A Forward Moving Church.*
- *From The Outside It Looked Like They Had It All Together*
- *The Sad Truth Is -- It Was Dead*

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How Could A Church Be Dead Spiritually?

- To Have A Form Of Worship But To Deny The Power Thereof (2 Tim 3:5)
- A Focus On Ritual, Ceremony, & Trappings Of Worship Instead Of A Focus On Christ

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Jesus Is Saying: “All Of Your Works Without The Spirit Of God Are Lifeless And Dead.”

- Spiritual Deadness Effects Our Testimony And Lifestyle
- Let Your Faith Show By What Has Happened On The Inside--
Not By What You Are Doing On The Outside
- We Can't Live It If We Aren't Alive On The Inside

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4. The Condemnation—3:2, 3

- **Revelation 3:1b–3 (NIV)** — 1b ... 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.

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They Were Going Through The Motions With No Heart For Christ

Christ's Commands Are:

- 1. Wake Up -- Be Alert*
- 2. Strengthen What Remains*
- 3. Remember The Gospel*
- 4. Hold Fast*
- 5. Repent (Change Directions)*

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5. The Commendation—3:4

- **Revelation 3:4 (NIV)** — 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.

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6. The Confirmation To Overcomers—3:5

- **Revelation 3:5–6 (NIV)** — 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.
- *Dressed In White Means To Be Set Apart For God,*
- *Your Name Will Not Be Erased From Book Of Life*
- *He Will Acknowledged You Before The Father & His Angels.*

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