

Don't Be A Corpse

Close to 200 climbers have perished attempting to summit Mt. Everest. Most of these bodies have been left on the slopes, as it is an extremely exhausting and tedious task to bring them back. Included in this number is George Mallory, whose 1924 expedition was thought to have gotten close to the top. Mallory's body was discovered in 1999, in amazingly good condition.

"Corpse" is an ugly word describing an ugly condition. It is the body of a human being where the life has left. The spirit has departed, leaving only a shell behind.

Five Prescriptions for Reviving Your Spiritual Life:

1. _____ **(Reputation): Don't Live On It!**
 - a. *"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." Revelation 3:1*
 - b. Twenty-five years ago, three ladies were rising stars in the Christian community – Amy Grant, Sandi Patti, and Tammy Faye Bakker. Over the ensuing years, all three were rocked by marital scandal. Danger comes when we stop living off the solid food of God's Word, and start living off our reputation.
2. _____ **(Remains): Strengthen What Is Left!**
 - a. *"Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of God." Revelation 3:2*
 - b. While physical death can come suddenly, spiritual death is nearly always a process. When we start feeling ourselves doing down, we need to strengthen what remains. Don't go full speed ahead, when you need to put your faith in Intensive Care.
3. _____ **(Remember): Reflect on What God Has Done for You!**
 - a. *"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard." Revelation 3:3*
 - b. A couple struggling with marriage problems needs to revisit their courtship days. A person with spiritual problems needs to revisit the days and circumstances of their conversion to Christ.
 - c. Sardis represents the church of the Reformation. Luther made a brave stand for salvation through faith alone, yet stumbled by paving the way for Lutheranism to become a state church in Germany. He also failed in making a clean break with Rome by continuing with infant baptism and much ritualism. Consequently, the Lutheran church, in time, looked and felt just like the old Roman church. They fell short in remembering what they were rescued out of.
4. _____ **(Receive): Reaffirm Your Commitment to the Gospel!**
 - a. *"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard." Revelation 3:3*
 - b. When coming out of a period of spiritual dryness and deadness, we need to reaffirm our commitment to the gospel – the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. A sincere prayer of recommitment is vital in making a new start.

5. _____ **(Repent): Change Your Lifestyle!**

- a. *“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.” Revelation 3:3*
- b. Repentance is a change of heart and mind. The stakes are incredibly high. If you don’t repent, the Lord will visit you suddenly. Disaster will fall on you without warning.
- c. For those who do repent, the Lord promises, *“I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.” Revelation 3:5*
- d. True believers will persevere to the end. True believers will always overcome. Jesus himself said, *“No one can snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:28*
- e. Others aren’t so fortunate. *“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance.” Hebrews 6:4-6* For those who irrevocably cut themselves off from the church, God lets them go, even those who were once vibrant professors of faith.

If you are here today, you have not cut off yourself completely from the church. There is still spiritual life in your body. Don’t be a corpse. Don’t let that spiritual life ebb away. Come back to Jesus today!