

THE FIFTH LETTER: FOUR FAITH KILLERS

May 17, 2020

I. FOUR FAITH KILLERS

Revelation 3:1-2 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 found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.

1. Your Reputation

Revelation 3:1 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.

- **Your reputation is killing your faith when what others think becomes more important than what Jesus thinks.**

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

- **The question is not “How do I look to them?” It is “How do I look to Him?”**
- **What is your reputation with God?**

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

2. Your Past

Revelation 3:2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.

- **Your past is killing your faith when who were becomes more important than who you are.**
- **Are you shining yesterday’s light?**

Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

3. Your Compromise

- **Your compromise is killing your faith when you are making choices that drain your life instead filling your spirit.**

Revelation 3:3 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.

Revelation 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- **Today's little compromises become tomorrow's big consequences.**

“Cohen was echoing the millions of professing Christians who, though unwilling to admit it, through their very lives pose the same question. Not about being Christian gangsters, but about being Christianized versions of whatever they already are — and are determined to remain.” - Chuck Colson

4. Your Comfort

Revelation 3:1-2 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 found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.

- **Your comfort is killing your faith when it lulls you into being complacent.**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Matthew 25:21 His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!”

- **Purpose in living brings meaning to life.**
- **God, how do you want to use me today?**