

Eyes on the King: Churches of Sardis/ Philadelphia

Sermon: Eyes on the King

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*To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God 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. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast Revelation 3:1-3*

To Wake Up - to be a watchman

Matthew 13:25; Psalm 130:5-7; Matthew 26:36-38

An awake church has each other's back

A heavily sedated faith leads to a heavily deflated follower

Four Ways we fall into Suspended Animation:

1. When we become Sedated by Spiritual Busyness
2. When we become Sedated by Self Love
3. When we become Sedated by Status Quo or Spiritual Boredom
4. When we become Sedated by Spiritual Impatience

The aroma of God's Spirit arouses our sleepy souls

Nine Ways we become Animated by the Spirit:

1. Awaken to Holy Spirit Purpose
1 Corinthians 12:7; 2 Corinthians 5:5
2. Awake to Holy Spirit Presence
Romans 8:11; John 14:16-18
3. Awake to Holy Spirit Passion
Romans 5:5
4. Awake to Holy Spirit Power
Romans 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:7
5. Awake to Holy Spirit Praise
Ephesians 5:19
6. Awake to Holy Spirit Peace
Romans 15:13
7. Awake to Holy Spirit Prayer
Ephesians 6:18
8. Awake to Holy Spirit Position
Romans 8:14,15; 1 Corinthians 6:11
9. Awake to Holy Spirit Perspective
John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 1:17

*To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an **open door** that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Revelation 3:7,8*

Open Door Blessing -

*The one who is victorious I will make a **pillar** in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new*

Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Revelation 3:12

Pillar blessing - built with His name on us. Jesus says, I will make you a trophy!

Living in this culture of shame:

Moral life is not built on the continuum of right and wrong; it's built on the continuum of inclusion and exclusion. *"The Shame Culture" New York Times March 15, 2016*

Everybody is perpetually insecure in a moral system based on inclusion and exclusion. There are no permanent standards, just the shifting judgment of the crowd. It is a culture of oversensitivity, overreaction and frequent moral panics, during which everybody feels compelled to go along. *"The Shame Culture" New York Times March 15, 2016*

If we're going to avoid a constant state of anxiety, people's identities have to be based on standards of justice and virtue that are deeper and more permanent than the shifting fancy of the crowd. *"The Shame Culture" New York Times March 15, 2016*

QUESTIONS:

1-Do you feel like the current of culture is making it hard to continue to grip your faith? Or do you find yourself griping?

2-Do you feel like you are just going through the motions of your faith, or are you experiencing a passionate love for Jesus that ignites your pursuit of Him and others?

3-Are you familiar only with the deeds of God and the deeds He calls us into, or are you familiar with the face of God - a familiarity that comes from relationship? What are some things you do to become more familiar with His face?

4-Read through the scriptures in the list of nine ways to become animated by the Spirit - invite Holy Spirit to highlight the 1-2 verses that He wants to talk to you about this week. *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. John 16:13*

5-How have you experienced the shame culture? How have you contributed to a shame culture? What shame have you been living under that Jesus is saying today He wants to break off of you?

Pray: Holy Spirit come to everyone of us. Remind us by Your Spirit that You are our everything! We want You to come and animate our hearts. Resurrect those sedated places in our hearts and minds to Your hope, Your purpose, and Your love!