

# Revelation Staying Alive

## Revelation 3:1-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 31, 2026

### I. Jesus Knows the Reality of Your Spiritual Condition

**Revelation 3:1** "...I know your works. You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."

In every other church, He starts by commending them first, but with this church He jumps right into condemnation.

Maybe it's because He knows they've already had enough commendation from everyone around them and they believe it - that they're this great church that's so alive. So, He hits it head on and says, "You're not! In fact, you are dead."

The church at Sardis was the largest of the seven churches. Services were packed and it was by far the wealthiest of the seven churches He speaks to.

Almost always, when a church is well-known and well-loved by everyone, it's focused on something other than the Gospel.

When a church does that, even the world will leave you alone and say nice things about you because there's no mention in this passage of any persecution, imprisonment, or anyone being killed for the cause of Christ. That's what was happening in other cities, but not here.

### II. Jesus Knows How We Grow

Jesus walks them through what to do!

#### A. Wake Up

**Revelation 3:2** "Wake up..."

This is not the first time Jesus talks this way to His disciples. **12x** in the Gospels you'll see Him using this same word: "wake up," "be watchful," and "stay alert."

The fact that He's telling them to wake up indicates that the word "dead" is not referring to people in the church who are unsaved or still dead in their trespasses and sins.

He's using the word dead to describe Christians who've lost sight of what matters most and are not living the way He calls us to live.

**Ephesians 5:14-17** "...Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Wake up and live for what matters most! Don't just do what the world does! Don't let them set the agenda and priority for you. Get it from Jesus!

## B. Build Up Your Spiritual Core

**Revelation 3:2** “...strengthen what remains and is about to die...”

He doesn't just condemn them. His prescription for turning things around was spiritual strength training for greater endurance, rigorous remembering, and regular rehearsing of the Gospel that has given them life in the first place.

Jesus is telling them to use everything He gave us to rouse them from their spiritually comatose state. In other words, stop looking and living like you're dead, but to do that, you're going have to start doing everything He gave you.

1. Prayer – Talk to Him every day about everything
2. Bible Reading – Listen to Him and renew your mind with His Word
3. Spend time with other believers at close range
4. Don't skip the gathered, corporate worship
5. Start serving and giving your life away

Don't be afraid of putting forth effort to do these things. Some Christians think grace is opposed to effort. It's not. Grace is opposed to earning. You cannot earn God's favor. It's a free gift.

But after He gives you that free gift, He calls you to put forth effort to grow and become more like His Son.

**1 Corinthians 15:10** “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”

**1 Timothy 4:7-8** “...train yourself to be godly. <sup>8</sup> Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

**2 Timothy 4:7** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

## C. Stir Up What I Started in You

**Revelation 3:3** “Remember, then, what you received and heard...”

You received the Holy Spirit and you heard the Gospel! That's basic Christianity 101. But those two things have to stay near and dear to you if you're going to grow and make progress in the Christian life.

### 1. You Received the Holy Spirit

**Acts 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses...to the end of the earth.”

**Ephesians 5:18** “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.” [Literal Greek “keep on being filled”]

## 2. You Heard the Gospel

**Colossians 1:23** “If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard...”

**Hebrews 2:1** “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.”

## III. Jesus Knows What You Need from Him

### A. He'll Walk with You in This Life

**Revelation 3:4** “...and they will walk with Me...”

One of the greatest truths of Christianity, that is unlike any other religion, is how He's in it with us. Whatever you're facing and whatever you're going through, He's never outside of it shouting to you. He's in it with you.

### B. He'll Speak for You in the Next

**Revelation 3:5** “... I will confess his name before My Father...”

If you're a Christian, Jesus is going to be naming your name and saying, “Father, she's Mine. He's Mine. Look at that robe of righteousness. I gave her that. I gave him that. The moment he believed and put his trust in Me...boom! Forgiven. Cleansed. Made right. Covered in a robe of righteousness because My perfect righteousness became hers.”

### C. He Did for You What You Could Never Do

**Revelation 3:5** “...clothed thus in white garments...”

**Isaiah 61:10** “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

**Revelation 7:9-10** “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,<sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”