

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

Wake Up, Strengthen, and Walk in White: Revelation 3:1-6

Read for context: *Isaiah 11:1-2; Zechariah 3:3-5; Daniel 12:1; Psalm 119:55-60; Matthew 24:42-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6; Luke 12:35-48.*

Big Idea: Christ, who holds the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, calls the church at Sardis (and us today) to:

- **Wake up** from spiritual death by *remembering, keeping, and repenting*.
- **Strengthen** by growth and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- **Overcome** by remaining in Christ. Be *clothed* in white with your name *written* in the Book of Life, and your name *confessed* before the Father and the angels.

The church at Sardis had a **reputation** for being alive but was spiritually **dead**. Their works were *incomplete* before God. This church lacked the inward movement of the Holy Spirit.

Christ offers the path back for an awakening: **remember** what you have received, **keep** it, and **repent**. To the *faithful* remnant and those who overcome, He promises white garments, their names written in the Book of Life, and confession before the Father and His angels. May we remain in Christ and experience the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

1) Read the Text

Read Revelation 3:1-6 aloud.

(Consider also *Isaiah 11:1-2; Zechariah 3:3-5; Daniel 12:1; Psalm 119:55-60; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6; Luke 12:35-48.*)

Ask the Lord to give you wisdom to discern between appearance and reality, between being alive and dead, and what it means to be led by the sevenfold Spirit.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2-3 prompts)

- How does Christ **describe** Himself in v.1, and what do the *seven Spirits of God* represent?
 - What is the main problem Christ **confronts** in vv.1-2? What's the difference between reputation and reality?
 - What **three-part** path does Christ give in v.3? What does each part mean?
 - What **warning** does Christ give in v.3, and what other scriptures does it connect to?
 - Who is the *faithful remnant* in v.4, and what are they **promised** in vv.4-5?
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3) See the Connections

Context: The church at Sardis had a **reputation** for being *alive* but was *dead*. Unlike Thyatira, which grew in love despite tolerating *false teaching*, Sardis **appeared** to do all the right things outwardly but lacked the inward movement of the Holy Spirit. Their works were **incomplete** before God. Christ, who holds the **seven Spirits** of God and the **seven stars**, calls them to **wake up, strengthen** what remains, and overcome in Him

Word Work:

- **Wake Up** (gregoreo - G1127): To be alert, keep watch, be vigilant. Look at *Luke 12:35-40* as this uses the same word, showing preparation.
- **Remember** (mnemoneuo - G3403): To call to mind, recall, or to be mindful. Sardis needed to remember the gospel they first received and return to that foundation. This word shows up in *Hebrews 2:6* and *Hebrews 13:3* as this is an uncommon word and appears only a small number of times in the New Testament.
- **Keep** (tereo - G5083): To guard, keep an eye on, hold fast, watch. This means to treasure the gospel in your heart and live according to its truth.
- **Repent** (metanoeo - G3340): To change one's mind, to think differently. For Sardis, repentance meant to continue having their minds changed and transformed to be strengthened and hold fast until the end.

Cross References:

- **Isaiah 11:1-2:** The **seven Spirits** are connected as they rest upon the Messiah, out of the stump of Jesse. These are the same Spirits that Christ offers to His Sardis and to us today.
- **Zechariah 3:3-5:** Joshua the high priest is clothed in clean garments, picturing what God does for those who repent.
- **Daniel 12:1:** Everyone whose name is found written in the book will be delivered. The Book of Life contains the names of all who belong to God.
- **Psalms 119:55-60:** Shows the pattern Christ calls Sardis to follow: remember, keep, repent (continue to be changed / transformed).
- **1 Thessalonians 5:2-6; Luke 12:35-48:** Christ will come like a thief in the night. We must stay spiritually awake and faithful in anticipation and preparation.

4) Interpret (What It Means)

- **Doing good requires being led by the Spirit:**
Sardis *looked* alive but lacked the movement of the Spirit of God. They did things, but their works were **incomplete** before God. We can do great things, but we must have the Spirit with us. Let us let the Holy Spirit work in and through us. Consider Zechariah 4:6 (From the Temple to churches today, we rely on the Spirit of God.)

- **An awakening requires us to remember, keep, and repent:**

Christ gives a clear three-part path: Remember what you received (the gospel). Keep it (guard it, treasure it, live by it). Repent (change your mind and be transformed). Christ provides a way for this awakening.

- **Overcomers are clothed, written, and confessed with Christ:**

To the faithful, Christ makes three promises: **clothed** in white garments (purity and victory), **names** in the Book of Life (eternal security), and **confession** before the Father (public acknowledgment). These promises are for the **remnant** and all who overcome by faith in Christ. (Let us come to Christ, grow in Him, do good in His name, and remain in Him.)

5) Apply (How We Live)

- **Believe in the Lord and be born again in the Spirit:**

Awakening cannot happen without faith in Christ. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Be saved. Be born again by the Spirit. You cannot be saved on your own. Respond to Salvation through faith. Receive it. Remain in Him. Grow in Him.

- **Grow in Christ and be led by the sevenfold Spirit:**

Continue to grow and strengthen. Be built up by the sevenfold Spirit: The Spirit of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. These are what Sardis lacked. Christ provides for us.

- **Do good in the name of Christ, led by the Spirit:**

We are saved *to do good* works in the name of Christ.

These works must flow from the Spirit. Good works are evidence of Christ's work in us. Look for one opportunity this week to display the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Ask yourself: Have I been doing good without the Holy Spirit? How can I remember, keep, and repent in my life? Does my life reflect someone that Christ will clothe, write, and confess as His own?

Commitment Log (7 Days)

- **Pray:** *"Lord Jesus, wake me from spiritual slumber. Fill me with Your sevenfold Spirit. Help me remember the gospel, keep it in my heart, and continually repent as I grow in You."*
- **Plan:** Choose one area where you've been active but not Spirit-led. How will you invite the Holy Spirit into this area? What good work will you do this week that flows from the Spirit?
- **Practice:** Daily ask: Am I spiritually awake or going through the motions? Where is the sevenfold Spirit leading me today?

6) Pray the Text (Revelation 3:1-6)

Praise: *"Jesus, You are the One who holds the **seven Spirits** of God and the **seven stars**. You see our heart and mind. You call us to wake up. We praise You for the fullness of Your Spirit!"*

Confession: *"Forgive me for settling for a reputation instead of reality. Forgive me for being busy but not Spirit-led. Wake me from spiritual death."*

Dependence: *"Fill me with Your **sevenfold Spirit**. Help me remember the gospel, keep it in my heart, and repent continually. Make me alive in You."*

Mission: *"Use my Spirit-led life to encourage others. Help me do good works that flow from Your Spirit. Clothe me in white and write my name in Your Book."*

7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Talk about the difference between looking good on the outside and being good on the inside. Draw white garments. Discuss: How can we let the Holy Spirit help us do good things?

- **Couples/Roommates:** Where are we going through the motions as a household? What spiritual habits have become routine instead of Spirit-led? Pray together for fresh awakening.
 - **Students/Young Adults:** Name one area where you're busy but not spiritually alive. What would it look like to invite the sevenfold Spirit into your studies, work, relationships?
 - **New to Faith:** Ask a mature believer: What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit? How do you keep the gospel central in your life?
 - **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Read *Revelation 3:4-5* and *Zechariah 3:3-5*. Write a prayer expressing your hope in Christ's promises: white garments, the Book of Life, being confessed before the Father.
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Notes / Questions