

REVELATION 3: 1-6

Sardis is one of only two churches that does not receive praise from Jesus, which must have been difficult - and the people there faced the accusation of being 'dead', not alive. The city was easily defended, and yet the people frequently allowed 'thieves in the night' to creep in. They were told that Jesus could return at any point, and they needed to be ready. Sardis was a luxurious place to live, and too much comfort had led them to be complacent.

Wake up! That's what Jesus calls for them, and for us. The word 'dead' quite literally here means 'dead': decaying, without life. Despite their 'reputation' for being alive, Jesus could see the truth. He calls us to be 'living stones', building the Kingdom in His name - something the church of Sardis had been failing at.

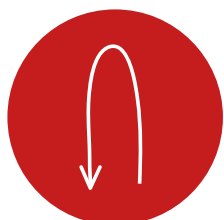
Our faith means listening and obeying God, not making plans and then asking God to bless them. There are a few people in the church in Sardis who are living out God's will, and Jesus praises them. We too should be asking God His plans for our lives, and then stepping out in faith, not including Him near the end of the planning stages.

The Book of Life contains the names of those who are saved. Are we certain that our names are within it? Really certain? If not, what would you do to ensure it?



01 — The danger of sleep

The church of Sardis was asleep, not awake - dead, not alive. Has there been a period of your life when your faith was asleep or dead? What changed?



02 — Dead or alive

What are the characteristics of a dead church? What does a living faith look like, both to other believers, and non-believers?



03 — Practising what (Clare) preaches

With no positivity for the church of Sardis, this can be a difficult message to hear. How will you 'wake up' your faith this week?

