
The Revived Church (Back from the Dead)

Witnessing the Church of Jesus

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Sermon: Witnessing the Church of Jesus: The Revived Church (Back from the Dead)

Current Series Messages:

- Theme Scripture: Matthew 16: ***18And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***
- Subject: **The Church of Love** (Remembering, Returning, Restoring)
- Subject: **The Church of Persecution** (Suffering for Righteousness, Kingdom, Christ)
- Subject: **The Worldly Church** (Enemies Bearing Gifts, Offering Help, Bringing Peace)
- Subject: **The Substitute Church** (Appointed or Anointed, Seduced or Holy, Defiled or Sanctified)
- Subject: **The Dead Church** (Walking in Dead Works, Dead Faith, and Dead Spirit)

Lesson Text

Revelation 3:7-9 (KJV)⁷***And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.***

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (KJV)⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, ***My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Introduction

Jesus establishes His Church with Power and Authority in Matthew 16:18; but in Revelations, the Church has digressed (strayed, deviated, and departed) from Christ's initial purpose.

1. The Church at Ephesus (The Church that had left its First Love)
2. The Church at Smyrna (The Church that was willing to Suffer for Christ's Sake)
3. The Church at Pergamos (The Worldly Church)
4. The Church at Thyatira (The Substitute Church that's lost its Authority)
5. The Church at Sardis (The Dead Church)
6. The Church at Philadelphia (The Revived Church)
7. The Church at Laodicea (The Worthless Church) – Neither Hot not Cold!

Now we will look at the 6th Church in Philadelphia which is identified as the Revived Church. Of the 7 churches that were written to in Revelations, only two of them received no complaints

or condemnation: the 2nd church in Smyrna for its willingness to suffer; and this the 6th church in Philadelphia because of something most of us would consider strange, its weakness.

Revelation 3: ⁸**I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, ...**

This seems strange because the world admires strength and power, ability, strength in numbers, power of resources, financial might; enamored by achievement, accumulation, and success.

By contrast, the lack of accomplishments, decrease, or loss is considered failure.

But God looks at success and failures from a complete opposite perspective.

Zechariah 4:⁶ ... This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

What God considers success and victory is not achieved through human resources and strength.

Isaiah 55:⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

1 Corinthians 1:²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

The Church at Sardis was a mega church filled with people, plenty of money, and access to resources of the World that considered itself alive, but God called it dead

Revelation 3: ¹... **I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.**

On the other hand, the world considered the Church at Philadelphia as dead because it was weak, small in number and resources, with no apparent access to human power.

Revelation 3: ⁸**I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength (Weak), and hast kept my word (Obedience), and hast not denied my name (Submission).**

This Church was not only not dead, but God declared it to be the head and not the tail.

Revelation 3: ⁹.. **I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, ...**

Series and Sermon: Witnessing the Church of Jesus: The Revived Church (Back from the Dead)

“Back from the Dead through Weakness, through Obedience, and through Submission”

I. Back from the Dead through Weakness

Revelation 3: ⁸**I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

“For thou hast a little strength”; or better put, though art weak.

They were weak because they were small in number and resources.

But their weakness wasn't a reaction to life, but a choice for life.

Some people react in weakness because they feel they have no choice, and thus live a defeated life; but we choose weakness in God and live a victorious life.

Revived Through Weakness

2 Corinthians 12: ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** ...

The world chooses self preservation, promotion, worldly success, strength.

But the path of God is self denial, service, spiritual success, or weakness.

The Church at Philadelphia wasn't weak because life played them a bad hand; they chose to be weak because they God's grace was sufficient.

2 Corinthians 12: ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

We don't turn the other cheek because we're weak; we choose to turn the other cheek; because in weakness we are made strong.

We don't put up with persecution and lies because we're weak; we choose to endure hardness as a good soldier knowing many are the afflictions of the righteous

We don't go through the valley because we're weak; we go through it because the Lord is my shepherd, and yea though I go through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

We don't run from a fight because we're weakness; we choose not to fight, because if we hold our peace and let the Lord fight our battles, victory shall be mind.

John 10: ¹⁸**No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

II. Back from the Dead through Obedience

Revelation 3: ⁸**I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

The second thing that revival requires is obedience to God's word.

Because of our flesh and the world, we are literally driven to be disobedient to God's Word

1 John 2:16 (KJV)¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Proverbs 16:²⁵ There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Our flesh drives us towards a path that seems right, but ultimately it results in disobedience.

Mark 4:19 (KJV)¹⁹**And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

James 1:15 (KJV)¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Revived Through Obedience

Revelation 3: ⁸I know thy **works**: behold, I have set before thee an **open door**, and no man can shut it:

Works represent the Act of Obedience, and Open Door represent the Reward of Obedience.

The Act of Obedience is Denying our flesh

Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV)²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

The Reward of Obedience is gives us Access to the Open Door:

Matthew 16:19 (KJV)¹⁹And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

John 14:15 (AV)¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:13 (AV)¹³ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

III. Back from the Dead through Submission

Revelation 3: ⁸I know thy **works**: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, **and hast not denied my name.**

The enemy came to Steal, Kill, and Destroy us, but we are back from the Dead:

- Revived through Weakness that makes us Strong
- Revived through Obedience that Opens the Door
- Revived through Submission that Exalts us above our Enemies

With God the way to strength is through weakness, the way to access is denial, and the way to being lifted up is through going down.

To Submit means to humble one's self to the will of God

Philippians 2:5–7 (AV)⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:9–10 (AV)⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, ...

1 Peter 5:⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Psalms 110:¹ The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Revived Back From the Dead: “Don’t Count Me Out”; “I’m Coming Back”; “I’m not dead”; “I’m still Alive”; “I’m Still Here”!

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Revived Church (Back from the Dead))

Study Tools:

- Video & Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/sermon-library> & <https://victoriouspraise.org/sermon-notes-copy>
- Bibles, Commentaries, Dictionaries: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> & <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>

Lesson Text

- Revelation 3:7-9, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Sermon Outline

- Back from the Dead through Weakness
- Back from the Dead through Obedience
- Back from the Dead through Submission

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What was your experience with Church as a child? Actively involved, just went, or none at all?
2. How did your experiences as a child affect your attitude towards Church as an adult?

II. Into the Bible

1. In Revelations 3:7, describe or define each of the attributes that Christ ascribes to himself with scriptural support (1. **he that is holy**, 2. **he that is true**, 3. **he that hath the key of David**, 4. **he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth**)?
2. How would you explain the differences in “Works” and it’s connection to “Faith” according to Ephesians 2:8-9 vs. the connection of the same two things in James 2:20.

III. Life Application

1. How have or would you personally apply the lesson of Paul from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10?
2. How would you encourage a person who has prayed to God and not gotten an answer?

Prayer

- **Prayer Request:**

- **Personal Prayer:**