



"To the Angel of the House: A Word from Revelation"

"When the Church Won't Listen: A Preacher's Cry to the 7 Pastors of Revelation"

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THE PREAMBLE!

"When the Church Won't Listen: A Preacher's Cry to the 7 Pastors of Revelation"

Preacher, this book ain't just another commentary—it's a **call**. A call to the pulpit, to the pastor, to the shepherd who stands before God's people. It's a **cry** from one preacher to another, because what Jesus said to the seven churches of Revelation ain't locked in history—it's alive and speaking **right now**.

The truth is, too many pulpits have gone **silent** when they should be sounding the alarm. Too many preachers have chosen **compromise** over conviction, **popularity** over power, and **entertainment** over **edification**. But preacher, **God is still holding His pastors accountable**. He still walks among His churches, measuring, testing, and judging. He still calls His messengers to **stand, speak, and set the house in order**.

This book ain't about making you comfortable—it's about making you **conscious**. Conscious of the **fire that has faded**, the **holiness that has been hijacked**, the **power that has been polluted**, and the **urgency that has been ignored**. Jesus wrote **letters to the pastors**, not just the people. He didn't whisper—He warned. He didn't suggest—He commanded. And if He was speaking then, **He's still speaking now**.

So preacher, **read this with open eyes and an open heart**. Let the Spirit search you. If your church is losing love like **Ephesus**, don't just preach it—**fix it**. If suffering is knocking at the door like **Smyrna**, don't just endure—**embrace it**. If compromise is creeping in like **Pergamos**, don't just watch—**warn**. If corruption is infecting the house like **Thyatira**, don't just tolerate—**tear it down**. If the fire has gone out like **Sardis**, don't just grieve—**get up**. If faithfulness is being tested like **Philadelphia**, don't just hold on—**hold fast**. And if lukewarmness is killing the fire like **Laodicea**, don't just pray about it—**repent and rekindle the flame**.

The letters have been written. The warnings have been given. The question is—**will the preacher listen?**

Let's find out.

DEDICATION

To the **Angel of the House** who knows what it means to **suffer for the Gospel**—

To the **pastor who preaches through pain**, who stands in the pulpit with a broken heart but a burning Word—

To the **shepherd who carries the weight of a weary flock**, praying for revival while wrestling with your own battles—

To the **minister who has been misunderstood, mistreated, and misjudged**, yet still remains faithful to the call—

To the **watchman on the wall**, who refuses to compromise even when it costs you everything—

This book is for you.

May you find strength in the Savior who still walks among His churches. May you find courage in the Christ who still holds the seven stars in His right hand. And may you hear His voice louder than the doubts, the struggles, and the suffering.

Your labor is not in vain. Your suffering is not unseen. Your faithfulness is not forgotten.

To the suffering pastor—**stand firm, stay faithful, and keep preaching.**

The Lord sees you. And He is coming soon.

-WILSON

WHY THIS BOOK?

The Angel of the House: A Divine Responsibility

Introduction

Beloved, as we turn our attention to the letters written to the churches in the Book of Revelation, we must recognize the divine order established by God. The messages were not sent to committees, councils, or congregations at large. No, these letters were addressed to the **angel of the house**—the pastor, the shepherd, the spiritual watchman over God’s people. It is no accident that God directed His Word specifically to the leader of each church. Just as Moses was entrusted with the law, just as Ezekiel was made a watchman, and just as Paul was given revelation for the church, so too were these letters entrusted to the pastors of the seven churches.

The Weight of the Word

When God speaks to the angel of the house, He is delivering a charge, a warning, and a promise all at once. This is no casual correspondence—this is divine instruction from the throne of heaven itself! The pastor is not just a preacher, not just an administrator, but a messenger of God’s truth. The weight of the Word demands attention, and any pastor who takes this responsibility lightly is in grave danger of leading God’s people astray.

Each letter begins with a powerful declaration from Jesus Himself, speaking with authority over His church. He is the One who holds the seven stars, the One who walks among the candlesticks, the Alpha and Omega. His voice echoes through time, calling every angel of the house to **hear, heed, and herald** the message given to them.

A Call to Pastoral Accountability

God holds the angel of the house accountable. Each letter reveals both commendations and condemnations, exposing the spiritual health of each church. The angel of the house is called to guard the doctrine, confront sin, and cultivate faithfulness among the flock. Consider the warnings given:

- To Ephesus: "You have left your first love." (Rev. 2:4)
- To Pergamum: "You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam." (Rev. 2:14)
- To Sardis: "You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead." (Rev. 3:1)
- To Laodicea: "You are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold." (Rev. 3:16)

These letters reveal a sobering reality: **God sees the church for what it truly is, not just what it appears to be.** No leader can hide behind programs, polished sermons, or public approval. The angel of the house must stand before God and give an account for how he has led God's people.

The Relevance for Today

Why do these letters matter now? Because the church of today is not far removed from the struggles of the first-century church. We still wrestle with compromised doctrine, lukewarm faith, misplaced priorities, and the temptation to conform to the world. The same Christ who spoke then is speaking now, and He is still calling His pastors to faithfulness!

- In an age of cultural confusion, pastors must **hold to sound doctrine.**
- In a time of spiritual apathy, pastors must **rekindle the fire of first love.**
- In a world of moral compromise, pastors must **call the church to holiness.**
- In days of persecution, pastors must **strengthen the flock to endure.**

If the angel of the house does not pay attention to the message, the entire church will suffer. Leadership determines direction, and when pastors heed the warnings of Christ, the church is protected from deception and destruction.

The Urgency of the Hour

Jesus is coming soon! The letters in Revelation are not just historical documents; they are prophetic calls to action. The angel of the house must recognize the **urgency of the hour** and lead God's people with boldness, clarity, and conviction. These letters are reminders that the church is not just another institution—it is the Bride of Christ, and she must be ready when the Bridegroom returns!

Conclusion

Pastors, take heed! The Lord has spoken, and His words still resound through the ages. Just as He called John to write to the seven churches, He is calling you today. Listen to His voice, heed His warnings, and lead His people well. For in the end, only one thing will matter: **Did you faithfully proclaim and obey the Word of the Lord?**

Let every angel of the house rise to the call, for the King is coming soon!

Chapter 1 – Ephesus: The No-Love Church

"When the Fire Fades: A Church That Works but Won't Worship"

Rev 2:1-7

Let's take a moment to examine ourselves and our ministry in light of the message to the church in Ephesus.

The city of Ephesus was a bustling hub of commerce, culture, and religion. It was a place filled with Asian deities, magical arts, and false teachings. Paul spent three years there (Acts 19:1-10), and it was also home to great leaders like Timothy, Aquila, and Priscilla. The church in Ephesus had a rich history of faithful preaching, and even the Apostle John served there in his later years. But in spite of all the activity and great work being done, Jesus had a serious concern for them: they had lost their first love.

Now, this letter was not just written to the Ephesian church back then—it's written to us today. It's a warning, an encouragement, and a challenge all in one. We can't afford to ignore it.

The Master's Observation of Ephesus

Jesus starts by saying, "I know all the things you do" (Rev 2:2). He sees everything—the hard work, the endurance, the stand against evil. He recognizes their solid theology, their commitment to truth, and their rejection of false teachers. In short, they're doing a lot of things right. But here's the catch:

He also sees everything that's wrong.

Jesus acknowledges that they've suffered for His name's sake, and that they've remained faithful amidst persecution. But He doesn't just praise them; He observes the bigger

picture: They've gotten so caught up in the mechanics of ministry that they've forgotten the heart of it—love.

The Master's Allegation Against Ephesus

Here's the painful part: "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!" (Rev 2:4). Ouch.

This church, despite all its hard work, had lost the fire of their first love. They were still active—still serving, still standing firm for truth—but they had become professional. They had become experts at the doctrines, but their hearts had grown cold. The love they once had for Christ, and for each other, had faded into the background.

So, what does this mean for us?

It's easy to get caught up in the duties of ministry—the meetings, the planning, the preaching—but we must never forget why we do it all in the first place. Love for God and love for His people should be the foundation of everything we do. Without it, we risk becoming like the Ephesians—busy, but missing the point.

Jesus gives them a call to repentance. He urges them to return to their first love, to rekindle the passion that once burned in their hearts.

The Master's Exhortation

Jesus encourages them, reminding them that they hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, a heretical group that was corrupting the faith with their immoral teachings. They stood firm on truth, and that was good. But even in this, there was a danger of becoming too focused on doctrine while neglecting the heart.

We must stand firm in our beliefs and reject false teachings. But let's not miss the point that, ultimately, love is the greatest commandment (Matt 22:37-40). Truth must always be held in balance with love.

The Master's Final Word

At the end of the day, Jesus urges them to listen to the Holy Spirit (Rev 2:7). He's calling us to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today. If we do, if we heed His voice, we will overcome.

The ultimate reward for faithfulness is eternal life with Christ in heaven—the paradise of God.

Take Heed Unto Yourself and Your Ministry

In light of all this, I challenge you to take a moment and reflect on your own heart and your ministry. Are you doing the work of the ministry out of love for Christ? Are you loving your congregation, your fellow leaders, and even yourself with the same passion you had when you first came to Christ?

Let's be honest with ourselves: Ministry is hard, and over time, it's easy to get burnt out, to go through the motions, or even to become frustrated. But if we lose our first love, we lose everything. We risk becoming just another busy church—working hard but missing the point.

Let's return to our first love—Jesus—and allow that love to fuel everything we do.

5 Best Practices to Be a Better Pastor:

1. **Maintain a Daily Devotional Life:**

Make time for personal worship and prayer. You can't give what you don't have. Staying close to God will keep your passion alive.

2. **Nurture Relationships:**

Love your congregation. Spend time getting to know them, encouraging them, and showing them the love of Christ. Ministry is about people, not just programs.

3. **Stay in the Word:**

Be diligent in studying Scripture. Your people need the Word of God, not your opinions or thoughts. Be a teacher of truth.

4. **Set Boundaries:**

Avoid burnout by learning to say no when necessary. Your first priority is to your own spiritual health and to your family. Without these, your ministry will suffer.

5. **Seek Accountability:**

Surround yourself with other faithful leaders who can encourage, challenge, and pray with you. Ministry is not meant to be done alone.

Remember, ministry is not a job—it's a calling. Keep your heart burning with love for Christ, and everything else will fall into place. Let's be faithful stewards of the grace we've received, and let love be the driving force behind all we do.

Chapter 2 – Smyrna: The Persecuted Church

"Pressure Produces Power: When the Church Suffers but Stands Strong"

Rev. 2:7-11

Let me start by saying this: if you're reading this, and you're a pastor who's facing tough times, you're not alone. We all face struggles in ministry, but some of us are walking through deeper valleys. I want you to know, just as Jesus spoke to the church in Smyrna, He's speaking to you today.

Smyrna, in Asia Minor, was a city of wealth and praise. But just like any thriving place, there was also a dark side. The Roman Empire had this worship culture where the emperor was considered god. Imagine that pressure! And while the Jewish community there had their own synagogues, they rejected Christians. If you dared to follow Jesus, you were outcast. No land. No property. No way to do business. You were in a constant state of suffering. But through it all, Smyrna stood. They remained faithful despite the weight. And let me tell you, brother or sister, if you're in a season of pain and persecution, God sees you. He's with you, just as He was with them.

1. The Encouragement of Christ

Jesus starts this message to the church in Smyrna by introducing Himself as the One who is the First and the Last, the One who died and came to life. He speaks to them in a way that says, "I understand your struggle."

Smyrna's name means myrrh, which is a bitter spice. So, you can imagine how they felt—bitter times, bitter moments, just like myrrh. But Jesus doesn't sugarcoat their pain. He doesn't tell them everything will be easy. But He reminds them that He's been through death, too, and now He's alive! And that should bring a sense of peace to your heart today. The One who conquered death is alive and in control of your situation.

Here's the thing, though: Jesus doesn't promise to take away their suffering, but He reminds them that their true riches are in Him. They may have had nothing materially, but they had everything spiritually. They had the Word of God. They had a relationship with the King of Kings. And you have that too, pastor. You may feel like you're barely holding on, but your riches in Christ are not of this world.

2. The Empowerment of Christ

Jesus doesn't sugarcoat their suffering either. He tells them, "Don't be afraid of what's coming." The devil is about to throw some of them into prison. They're going to be tested. Some will even face death. But Christ says, "Remain faithful."

What I want you to hear today is this: even when you feel like you're at your breaking point, even when it seems like the weight of your circumstances is too much, Jesus is telling you to stand firm. You're not just standing for the moment. You're standing for eternity. And if you stay faithful to Him, even through death, He promises you the crown of life.

That crown is more than any earthly prize. In fact, Smyrna was known for its costly crowns in the Olympic Games, but Christ's crown of life far surpasses anything this world can offer. So, even in your season of struggle, know that God is preparing something much greater for you in the life to come.

3. Endure to the End

Here's the final word of encouragement: "Whoever is victorious will not be hurt by the second death." The second death is the eternal separation from God—hell. But you, pastor, if you remain faithful, will never see that. You have eternal life in Christ.

The struggles you're facing now are temporary. They might feel long and endless, but like a season, they will come to an end. And when they do, the reward you'll receive from Christ will far outweigh all the pain you're enduring.

Jesus isn't just speaking to Smyrna. He's speaking to you today. Even though you're in a place of pain, you're still in the fight. You're still running the race. And that race has a glorious finish.

Encouragement Tips for the Suffering Pastor:

1. **Embrace your season:** Understand that suffering is a part of the journey. Jesus didn't promise us a life free from trials. He promised to be with us through them. When things get tough, remind yourself of His presence. You're not alone.
2. **Stay grounded in the Word:** Just like the church in Smyrna had spiritual riches, you do too. Don't let the storms of life drown out God's voice. Immerse yourself in Scripture, and let it be the foundation that holds you steady.
3. **Pray through the pain:** When you're struggling, don't give in to the temptation to isolate yourself. Stay on your knees before God. Let prayer be your lifeline. It's through prayer that you will draw strength, comfort, and direction.
4. **Find support in others:** Even if you're not experiencing persecution, ministry can be isolating. Seek out other pastors, leaders, or even a mentor. Don't be afraid to lean on others for encouragement and prayer.
5. **Keep your eyes on the prize:** Don't lose sight of the eternal reward. Ministry may feel like a long, hard race, but remember—there's a crown of life waiting for you. That should keep you moving forward.

Pastor, I know you're weary. I know the weight of your calling is heavy, but just like the church in Smyrna, you're rich in ways this world can't understand. Stand firm, remain

faithful, and let Jesus empower you to endure. Your reward is coming, and it will be greater than anything you could imagine.

Conclusion:

So today, as you face the pressures of ministry, remember that the Lord sees you, He understands your suffering, and He promises to be with you through it all. The crown of life is waiting for you, and nothing in this world compares to what God has prepared for those who endure to the end. Keep pressing forward, pastor. You've got this.

Chapter 3 – Pergamos: The Compromising Church

"Too Close to the World: When the Church Sleeps with the Enemy"

Revelation 2:12-17

To the Angel of the Church in Pergamum,

Hear this word from the One who holds a sharp, double-edged sword. Listen up, church in Pergamum, because this message isn't just a polite inquiry—it's a call to wake up! You live in a city where Satan has set up shop, yet I see your faithfulness. But let me tell you, despite your loyalty, there are issues, serious issues, that cannot be ignored. Your compromise is staining your testimony, and I will not sit idly by.

Christ's Commendation

I know where you dwell—where Satan's throne is established. I know you've stood firm. Even when Antipas, My faithful servant, was martyred, you did not yield. But here's the problem: your endurance in the face of persecution doesn't mean you are exempt from spiritual failure. It's not enough to just hold on in the tough times if you're compromising in the quiet ones. The truth is, you may think you're standing firm, but the enemy is already setting a trap for your soul.

You may be loyal in the face of martyrdom, but I am more concerned with your loyalty in the face of temptation.

Christ's Indictment

But I have this against you—there are some among you who tolerate false teaching. You are living too close to the world. You've welcomed in Balaam-like teachings, the kind that lead to idolatry and sexual immorality. You've allowed the Nicolaitans to spread their poison among you. Do you understand the gravity of this? By tolerating these teachings, you're opening the door to a deadly compromise that can lead you straight to

destruction. The world doesn't need your compromise; it needs your commitment. Your blending in with the world won't save them—it will destroy you.

Christ's Rebuke: Why God Is Upset

Let me break it down for you, church: You are playing a dangerous game. The filthiness of the flesh and the filthiness of the spirit are not separate—they are connected. Corrupt doctrine leads to corrupt living, and corrupt living leads to a compromised witness. You cannot be a part of this world and the kingdom of God at the same time.

I see you playing with fire, but understand this: you are risking not just your own soul, but the very health of the body of Christ. If you're not willing to deal with sin, sin will deal with you.

The Call to Repentance

If you don't repent, I will come to you with the sword of My mouth. I will not stand by while My people destroy themselves. If you refuse to turn from your wicked ways, I will fight against you—not as a friend, but as an enemy.

Repent. Not tomorrow, not next week, but right now. And hear this: when you repent, victory will be yours. When you repent, you will eat from the hidden manna in heaven. When you repent, you will receive the white stone—your new name, engraved with a love that the world cannot understand. That's the promise of victory.

The Church's Invitation to Repent

This is the choice before you, Pergamum:

1. **Repent**, and you will hear the Spirit of God, leading you into victory.
2. **Repent**, and you will receive God's provision and protection.
3. **Repent**, and you will be rewarded with a place in God's eternal kingdom.

But if you don't, the alternative is judgment. And trust me, you do not want to face the sword of My mouth.

5 Best Practices to Change the Behavior of the Congregation

1. **Teach the Whole Counsel of God** – Stop tolerating teachings that deviate from the Word. Embrace all that Christ has commanded, not just the comfortable parts.
2. **Guard Against Worldly Influence** – The church is not called to blend in with the world, but to transform it. Establish clear boundaries between worldly culture and the Kingdom of God.
3. **Preach the Hard Truths** – Don't shy away from convicting messages. The gospel is not just about love and grace—it is about repentance and transformation. Speak truth boldly.
4. **Hold One Another Accountable** – Don't allow sin to fester in the congregation. Call out false teaching, idolatry, and immorality with love and firmness.
5. **Commit to Holiness and Purity** – Lead by example. The church should be a place where holiness is pursued, not one where compromise is allowed. Lead your people in worship and lifestyle that reflect God's holiness.

Conclusion

Church, you cannot continue in this state of compromise. You cannot continue sleeping with the enemy. Repent, or face judgment. The choice is yours, but know this: Christ is coming back, and He will judge those who refuse to repent. Don't let your church be a casualty of complacency. The time to change is now.

Wake up, church, and return to your first love.

Chapter 4 – Thyatira: The Corrupt Church

"Holiness or Hustling? When the Pulpit Gets in Bed with Sin"

Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira—a church that seemed to have it all together on the surface but was deeply infected by compromise. The church was busy, active, and full of works that looked good, but there was something toxic brewing beneath the surface. Let's take a hard look at what was happening, and more importantly, what this means for us today.

I. The Lord's Approval: Your Works are Not in Vain (v. 19)

The Lord sees you, Thyatira. He sees your works, your love, your service, your faith, and your patience. He recognizes that you're not just going through the motions but that your works are increasing. He commends your service and your faith in action. But here's the catch—the Lord sees it all.

What does this mean for us today? It means that God is watching how we serve and live in His name. He knows when our faith is genuine and when we're just going through the motions. It's time we asked ourselves: are we serving God from a place of sincerity, or are we hustling for recognition, distracted by the praise of people or the comfort of our own agendas?

II. The Lord's Accusation: You've Allowed Jezebel to Preach (vv. 20-23)

But here's the flip side—while the Lord acknowledges the good, He also has a heavy accusation. You've allowed Jezebel, that false prophetess, to operate in your midst. And it's not just her teaching that's at fault. It's the fact that you've tolerated her seduction of the people. She led the saints into sexual immorality and idol worship, convincing them it was all okay for the sake of convenience.

The problem wasn't just that she was doing it—**you allowed it**. In fact, you turned a blind eye, and some of you even followed her teachings. You compromised the gospel for what? To avoid trouble? To fit in? To protect your livelihood? Just like that Jezebel spirit, we too are often tempted to compromise to keep things comfortable—whether it's lowering our standards to please people or softening the truth so that we don't rock the boat.

But God says no.

You can't mix the purity of Christ with the world's pollution. Repentance is not optional. Time's up. God will deal with the seduction of sin—His eyes burn like fire, and He will search the heart. There's no escaping His judgment. If you don't turn back, you'll face His discipline.

III. The Lord's Admonition: Hold Fast and Overcome (vv. 24-29)

But there's hope—there's always a remnant. Not everyone in Thyatira was caught up in the compromise. The Lord speaks to those who have stayed true to His Word. To you, He says: **Hold fast** to what you have until I return. I see your resistance, and I'll reward you for your faithfulness.

Hold fast.

That's the command. In a world that's full of distractions and false teachings, it's easy to slip into compromise. But God is calling us to stay faithful to His Word and His ways. The reward? You'll rule with Christ. You'll reign in His kingdom, standing firm against the evil of this world, and He will give you the morning star—His very presence.

But let's not forget this crucial warning: **Compromise with the world is a form of spiritual adultery**. There's no middle ground. Jesus is calling His people to purity, holiness, and a refusal to be seduced by the idols of today's culture.

The Challenge for Us Today

This church didn't just suffer from immorality—it suffered from tolerance. They allowed falsehood to persist because it was easier than confronting it. But God is challenging us to take a hard look at where we've become complacent. Are we tolerating sin in our pulpits, in our lives, in our churches?

The Bible says, **“I gave her time to repent, but she didn’t.”** Don't be like that. God is giving us time, too. But time is running out. We must choose between holiness and hustling. Will we bow to the pressures of a corrupt world, or will we remain faithful, pure, and set apart?

5 Things to consider:

1. **Serve with sincerity**, not for show. Let your faith be a living testimony in every action.
2. **Don't tolerate evil**—call it out for what it is. Where there is compromise, it must be confronted.
3. **Don't compromise your convictions**. Stay grounded in truth, even when it's unpopular or costly.
4. **Focus on the eternal reward**—our time on earth is short. Live for what matters.
5. **Repent and return to holiness**. It's never too late to turn away from compromise and pursue the purity of Christ.

Conclusion

Thyatira's story is a warning to us all. We cannot afford to play games with sin. It's time to get serious about living out our faith. Hold fast to the truth. Don't let the world seduce you. Keep your eyes on the coming of Christ, and let your works testify to His goodness. The time for compromise is over. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**

Chapter 5 – Sardis: The Dead Church

"You Ain't Alive, You Just Awake!"

When the Church Looks Good but Lacks God

Rev 3:1-6

Jesus says it bluntly to the church in Sardis: "You have a name that you're alive, but you're dead." Can you imagine being told that? A church that looks like it's thriving, all polished up on the outside, but spiritually it's a graveyard. That's Sardis. It's the church that looked alive but was dead inside—no real fire, no real passion, no real power. Just a shell.

Here's the thing: Sardis didn't have to be dead. No, they chose it. This church, like so many of us, got comfortable. They rested on their past successes, they got complacent, and they spiritually fell asleep. They had everything they needed—just not the passion to use it. They had the Spirit of God, they had the Gospel, but they didn't *live* it.

Sardis was a rich city with a glorious past, but that didn't save the church. The church took its cues from the city—proud of what it used to be, but no longer living in its glory. Sardis was like a "whitewashed tomb," beautiful on the outside but full of dead bones inside (Matt 23:27). Does that sound familiar? Churches that are still basking in the glory of past victories, but don't have anything fresh to show for themselves today? Yeah, Sardis is that church.

The Case of Sardis

Rev 3:1 - "You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."

Here's the hard truth—Jesus is calling Sardis out for being imposters. They had a reputation for being alive. Heaven knew them for what they *used* to do, and people on earth knew

them for what they *once* did. But in reality, they were nothing like their former selves. Their “used-to” was louder than their “right-now.”

It’s easy to fall into this trap. We’ve all heard those pastors or churches that can only talk about the past: “We used to have this many people in attendance,” or “We used to do this amazing outreach event.” But what about now? When you’re coasting on past glory, you’re missing the power of what God wants to do right now, in this moment. The church in Sardis is a warning to us all—don’t be so proud of what you *used* to be that you forget what you need to be now.

The Charge for Sardis

Rev 3:2 - “Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die...”

Wake up! Jesus calls Sardis to action. Wake up from spiritual slumber. You’ve got some things that are still alive—don’t let them die. Don’t sit there waiting for things to just *happen*. Sardis was living on autopilot, and Jesus calls them to “strengthen what remains.” The work isn’t over; it’s just getting started.

This isn’t just about doing something—it’s about doing something for the Kingdom. It’s about being active, not passive. If you’re stuck reminiscing about your “glory days,” it’s time to break the chains and get moving. There’s work to be done, and God expects us to be on it.

For pastors, leaders, and members who have been around a while, the temptation is real: you feel like you’ve “arrived,” like you’ve done your part, and now it’s time to rest. But Jesus says, “No, you never retire from the Kingdom!” No, you don’t have to run marathons like you did in your youth, but you’re never done. There’s always something to give—always something to build. If you’ve fallen into complacency, it’s time to wake up and get busy.

The Commendation of Sardis

Rev 3:4 - “Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.”

Even in this dead church, there’s a remnant—those who haven’t given in to the complacency, the lethargy. There are still some in Sardis who have remained faithful. You know what that tells us? It doesn’t matter how dead the whole church might look; there’s always a remnant. Always a group that’s still on fire, still working, still walking with Jesus.

Jesus commends these faithful few, saying they’ll walk with Him in white. These are the ones who’ve stayed pure, stayed active, stayed obedient. So, don’t get discouraged by the state of the whole church. If you’re part of that faithful few, keep pressing on.

Maybe you feel like the whole church around you is asleep, but don't lose heart. You might be a part of that faithful remnant. Your work matters. God sees your faithfulness. Even when the church is asleep, you can keep working, keep standing strong, and keep doing the will of God. You won’t be forgotten.

5 Best Practices for Pastors and Leaders to Wake Up!

1. **Revisit Your First Love:** Take time to remember the passion and zeal you had when you first accepted the call. When was the last time you were excited about the Gospel? Rekindle that fire.
2. **Stop Bragging About Past Glory:** Instead of living in the past, focus on what God is calling you to do right now. Don’t rest on old achievements. The future is where God is moving.
3. **Embrace Change:** Don’t be afraid to let go of outdated methods or traditions that no longer serve the mission of the church. Keep evolving and be open to new ways of reaching people.

4. **Wake Up and Get to Work:** Stop waiting for things to "just happen." Strengthen what's left. If something's alive, nurture it. Start now—no more excuses.
5. **Lead by Example:** If you're awake, make sure the rest of the church knows it. Lead by example in passion, prayer, and action. Your energy will inspire those around you to wake up too.

Pastor, it's time to wake up. Sardis shows us what happens when we get complacent, but also what can happen when we get back to work. Let's not be a church with a reputation for being alive while we're dead inside. Let's be a church that's truly alive, fully awake, and fully committed to doing the work God has called us to do. Get moving!

Chapter 6 – Philadelphia: The Special Church

"Faithful Over a Few Things: The Church That Kept the Key"

Rev 3:7-13

Oh, let me tell you, there are some churches out there that just shine with the brilliance of God's grace, and the Church of Philadelphia is one of them! If ever there was a church that got it right, it's this one. I'm talking about a group of believers who are all in! They weren't just talking the talk; they were walking the walk, and they were doing it with a heart that loved Jesus no matter what life threw at them.

Now, let me set the scene for you: John the Apostle, locked up on the island of Patmos, was in the spirit on the Lord's Day when he got this divine message. It wasn't just any message—it was a prophecy to the churches in Asia Minor, but today we're zooming in on Philadelphia. A church with a heart for God, a church that kept His Word, a church that was faithful with what little they had. And God? He noticed. He had a special word for them, and I'm telling you, it's the kind of word we all need to hear today. So, buckle up, church, because we're about to dive into the encouragement God gave to this special church—and how it applies to you and me!

The Proclamation of God:

"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." (Rev 3:7)

Let's talk about this for a second. God is speaking directly to the leader of the church in Philadelphia, and His words are clear: He is HOLY, He is TRUE, and He holds the keys to the kingdom. There's nothing that happens without His say-so! Now, don't miss this:

God is not just making idle chatter. He's affirming that He sees you, Philly church, and He knows your heart.

Philadelphia—meaning **“brotherly love”*—*was a city in a tough spot. Earthquakes rattled it, the city had its struggles, and the church faced opposition from all sides. Yet, God had a message: *“I see your faithfulness. You’ve kept My Word. And no one can close the doors I open for you!”*

When I tell you this is a church that kept going, no matter what, I mean it. They didn't let the world's distractions or difficulties deter them. They had a holy, undivided focus on Jesus and His Kingdom. And guess what? God says, “I’ve got an open door for you, and no one can shut it.” What a promise!

The Power of God:

“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.” (Rev 3:8)

Now, I need to say this loud and clear: God knows your deeds. He sees the work you're doing, the struggles you're facing, the little strength you have, and yet, you keep going. That's the kind of faith that moves the heart of God. God doesn't need you to be a powerhouse—He just needs you to be faithful with what you've got.

Philadelphia, though small and struggling, was doing BIG things for God. They didn't have much, but what they had, they gave with everything. And guess what God did in return? He opened doors. Opportunities for more work, more ministry, more impact, all because they were faithful with the little.

Church, this is a word for you today. God sees your faithfulness, your commitment, and your perseverance. And He's got an open door for you too! Don't let anything or anyone close it. God has more for you, but you've got to be faithful with what you've got right now.

The Protection of God:

"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth." (Rev 3:10)

Here's the thing about faithfulness: it doesn't always come without a price. The Philadelphia church was enduring hardship. They were facing ridicule, opposition, and hardship, but they kept pushing forward. And God made them a promise: He would protect them from the coming trial.

Church, I know life can be tough sometimes, but if you hold on and keep His Word, God's got you. When the world seems to be spinning out of control, God's protection surrounds those who endure. He doesn't leave us to face the trials of life alone—He shields us, He strengthens us, and He promises to keep us.

The Reward of God:

"Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him 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 him my new name." (Rev 3:12)

Oh, glory! The reward for those who persevere is not just a pat on the back—it's a promise of eternal glory! Jesus says, "I'm going to make you a pillar in the temple of God. Never

again will you be shaken, never again will you be moved.” In a city known for its instability, Jesus promises stability forever. This isn’t just about a crown or a title; this is about being marked and sealed by God as His own, forever and ever!

When you overcome, God promises to place His name on you, to make you part of His eternal Kingdom. That’s the reward! You’re not just a conqueror—you’re a *pillar*, a steadfast, unshakable part of God’s temple.

Conclusion:

Let me wrap it up for you: God sees you. He knows your struggles, He knows your strengths and weaknesses, and He has opened a door before you that no one can shut. He’s calling you to hold fast, to keep His Word, and to trust that He will protect you through the trials of life.

But there’s more! If you keep on keeping on, if you persevere and overcome, you will not only see His blessing here on earth, but you’ll be eternally marked by His name, a pillar in the glorious Kingdom of God.

So, church, hold on! God is coming soon, and He’s got a crown with your name on it! Keep going, because God is with you, and there’s nothing He can’t do through you. Let the doors He opens for you be a testimony of His faithfulness. You are part of something special, something eternal. Keep up the good work!

HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES!

Here are five best practices for the church in Philadelphia to continue its faithful ministry and make an even greater impact:

1. **Strengthen the Commitment to the Word:** The church must continue to prioritize the teaching and preaching of God's Word. Just as the church in Philadelphia kept the Word of God and did not deny His name, this church should ensure that every gathering, every Bible study, and every interaction is deeply rooted in Scripture. When the foundation is the Word, everything else flows from it.
2. **Embrace Open Doors for Ministry:** God has opened doors of opportunity for this church, and they must seize those opportunities with passion and boldness. Keep prayerfully seeking God's direction for new ways to engage the community and extend their reach. Whether through outreach programs, missions, or local partnerships, the church should never become complacent but should continually be looking for open doors to minister to those in need.
3. **Foster a Culture of Perseverance and Patience:** In the face of opposition or difficulty, this church must continue to exhibit perseverance. The members of Philadelphia were commended for enduring trials patiently, and this is a key practice that must not be overlooked. Encourage one another to keep pressing forward in faith, knowing that God is working behind the scenes, even when things are tough.
4. **Cultivate a Spirit of Love and Unity:** Just as Philadelphia was a city named after "brotherly love," the church should embody that love. Cultivate a deep love for one another and the world around them. Foster unity by working through differences, bearing with one another, and ensuring that no one feels excluded. A church that loves deeply will have an undeniable influence in the community.
5. **Equip and Empower the Next Generation:** The church should prioritize developing leaders within the congregation. Invest in the spiritual growth of the younger members and help them cultivate their gifts for service. By empowering the next generation, this church can ensure the continuation of its legacy and impact in the years to come.

By staying committed to these practices, the church in Philadelphia will continue to be a powerful force for the Kingdom of God, bringing glory to His name and transforming lives.

Chapter 7 – Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church

"Too Cold to Catch Fire, Too Warm to Be Worth Anything!"

Rev. 3:15-16

Preacher, We Need to Talk...

Imagine standing at the door of a church where the sanctuary is full, but the spirit is absent. The choir is singing, but there's no anointing. The preacher is preaching, but heaven isn't listening. People are gathering, but no transformation is taking place. This, my friend, is Laodicea.

The Lord has something to say to this church, and it ain't pretty. Jesus steps in, looks around, and calls them out: "You are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other! But because you are lukewarm—I'm about to spit you out of My mouth." (Revelation 3:15-16, NKJV) Now, preacher, that's a rebuke if I've ever heard one!

Lukewarm? That's the worst kind of condition to be in! Cold water refreshes. Hot water heals. But lukewarm water? It's nasty. It's useless. It's the kind of thing that makes you gag. And that's exactly how Jesus feels about a church that has lost its fire but won't admit it's dead.

The Problem with Comfort Christianity

The Laodiceans were proud of themselves. They had money, influence, and prestige. They had built a church with fine architecture, strong membership rolls, and a reputation for success. But what did Jesus say? He said, "You say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and

have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” (Revelation 3:17)

This is what happens when a church becomes satisfied with itself. When it stops depending on God and starts relying on budgets, buildings, and branding. When it measures success by how many people show up rather than how many lives are changed. When it stops crying out for revival because it thinks it doesn’t need one.

Preacher, let’s talk plainly: A comfortable church is a dangerous church. Because when people stop feeling their need for God, they stop seeking Him. When prayer is replaced by programs and passion is swapped for professionalism, the church may look alive—but it’s dying on the inside.

Jesus' Call to Revival

Jesus doesn’t just rebuke—He offers restoration. He gives the lukewarm church a way back: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.” (Revelation 3:18)

In other words, trade in your fake riches for real spiritual wealth. Throw away your self-righteousness and put on the robe of Christ. Stop being spiritually blind and ask God to open your eyes. Jesus is saying: “You’re not as together as you think you are. You need Me.”

And then He gives the most beautiful invitation: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” (Revelation 3:20) Preacher, did you catch that? Jesus is outside His own church, knocking to get in! A church can be full of activity and still have Christ on the outside looking in. But the good news is, He’s still knocking. He’s still willing to come in if someone will open the door.

Best Praxis Ideas for the Reader:

1. **Conduct a Spiritual Temperature Check** – Regularly evaluate the fire of your church and your own soul. Are you cold, hot, or just lukewarm?
2. **Preach the Uncomfortable Truths** – Don't shy away from messages that challenge complacency. Call the people back to holiness and true dependence on God.
3. **Revive the Prayer Culture** – Lukewarm churches lose their prayer life first. Reignite intercession and dependence on God's presence.
4. **Engage in Spirit-Led Worship** – Worship must be more than routine; it must be an encounter. Ensure that your worship is fueled by the Holy Spirit, not just performance.
5. **Open the Door to Jesus** – Before every service, every meeting, every decision—pause and invite Jesus to take control. If He's not leading, you're just playing church.

Final Thought:

Preacher, don't let your church—or your own soul—fall into the trap of lukewarm living. Get the fire back. Stop playing it safe. Jesus is knocking. Open the door and let the flames of revival burn again!

THE CONCLUSION

At the Appearance of the Lamb – A Call to Revival!

Rev. 5:1-11

Beloved, let's pause for a moment and take this in—**at the appearance of the Lamb, everything changes!** Heaven shifts into high gear, worship explodes, and the destiny of the redeemed is secured forever! This is not just another scene in John's vision; this is the **moment of divine victory, the unveiling of our triumphant King!**

We started this journey witnessing the throne room of God, where worship is powerful, participatory, and filled with the praises of the righteous. But let's be clear—**worship reaches its highest and holiest point when the Lamb steps forward!**

The Lamb is not just a symbol—He is **our Savior, our Sovereign, and our Song!**

Our Savior – The Only One Who Can Redeem

When no one in heaven or earth was found worthy to open the scroll, **the Lamb appeared!** Not just any lamb, but **the Lamb that was slain, yet standing in victory!** His presence silenced every doubt, removed every fear, and confirmed that redemption was **complete!**

Our Sovereign – The Only One Who Has Authority

Notice this—**no prophet, no priest, no angel, no elder could take the scroll—only Jesus!** The wounds on His body speak of the price He paid, but His position before the throne speaks of the power He now holds! He **alone** has the authority to take the scroll, open the seals, and execute the divine plan of God. **He reigns!**

Our Song – The Only One Who is Worthy of Worship

The moment the Lamb takes the scroll, all of heaven erupts in **new** worship! This is not

recycled praise, this is fresh fire! Why? Because **our redemption is not an old story—it's an ever-living reality!** The elders, the living creatures, and all creation **sing a new song because the Lamb has done a new thing!**

Preacher, Get Revived!

This is your moment to wake up, rise up, and lift up the name of Jesus like never before! The Lamb is not just a figure of history—**He is the ruling King of glory, and He is moving even now!**

Do you see it? Do you feel it? **The Lamb is worthy! The Lamb has won! The Lamb is reigning!**

So, **preach with power! Worship with fire! Lead with boldness!** Don't let your heart grow cold—let it burn with the passion of heaven! Because **at the appearance of the Lamb, everything changes!**

Hallelujah! **The Lamb is on the throne—now, let's get to work!**

Pastor if you want to **stir the waters of revival** in your heart and in your church, you must be intentional about spiritual renewal, corporate prayer, and missional engagement. Here are five **best praxis ideas** to ignite revival:

1. *Consecration Before Congregation* – Revival must begin in the heart of the pastor before it can flow into the church. This praxis calls for deep personal renewal through fasting, extended prayer, and repentance. The pastor should prioritize a personal altar before leading at the public altar.

2. *Preaching for Awakening* – The pulpit must be a place of fire and not just information. A revival-centered praxis focuses on Spirit-empowered preaching—calling the church to

repentance, holiness, and passionate pursuit of God. Preaching should be biblical, prophetic, and bold enough to shake the complacency of the congregation.

3. *Corporate Intercession and Fasting* – Revival is birthed in prayer. The church should implement a structured season of prayer and fasting, incorporating all-night prayer gatherings, prayer walks, and intercessory teams. When the people pray, God moves!

4. *Evangelism and Outreach as a Lifestyle* – A revived church cannot stay inside its four walls. This praxis focuses on street evangelism, community service, and radical generosity. When the church is on mission, revival becomes more than an experience—it becomes a movement.

5. *Worship that Ushers in the Glory* – Revival is sustained where true worship is present. This praxis calls for unhindered, Spirit-led worship that creates an atmosphere for God's presence. The worship ministry should focus on heartfelt praise, not just performance. When worship shifts from routine to reverence, heaven touches earth.

Closing Charge: A Call to Revival

My brothers and sisters, throughout history, God has used ordinary men with extraordinary faith to shake the foundations of this world with revival. The stories of D.L. Moody, E.V. Hill, and Angulus Wilson remind us that revival is not about a man but about a movement of God's Spirit in willing vessels.

Moody walked the streets of Chicago, bringing sinners to the Savior with unrelenting zeal. Hill stood boldly in the midst of persecution, preaching Jesus with power and passion. And Wilson, shaped by the fire of suffering, lifts high the banner of Christ, calling generations to faithfulness.

The question before us is simple: Will we be the generation that seeks God for revival? Will we humble ourselves, pray, and turn from our ways so that heaven might respond? The fire that fell in their days can fall again today! Rise up, church! Let the spirit of revival move in you, through you, and beyond you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Three Short Stories of Revival

D.L. Moody: The Fire That Couldn't Be Contained

D.L. Moody was a man of deep conviction but little formal education. Yet, he believed that "the world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to Him." Revival came through Moody's ministry when he encountered the Holy Spirit in a fresh way.

One night, two elderly women approached him after a sermon and said, "Mr. Moody, we are praying that you be filled with the Holy Ghost." Offended at first, Moody later realized that his ministry lacked the power of God. He cried out in desperation, and God answered.

Moody described it as a fire in his soul that he could not contain. From that moment on, he preached with a power that changed nations—bringing revival to Chicago, England, and beyond. His ministry saw thousands saved, and his Bible school still trains disciples today.

E.V. Hill: Preaching Jesus in the Face of Danger

Dr. E.V. Hill was a prophetic voice in America, unafraid to call sin what it was and to declare Christ as the only hope. During the civil rights era, he pastored Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. It was a dangerous time, and threats against his life were common. One night, the Ku Klux Klan set his car on fire in his own driveway.

Instead of running, Hill stood in his pulpit the next Sunday and declared, **“If you're gonna kill me for preaching Jesus, then I might as well preach Him harder!”** Revival broke out in his church as young people flooded the altar, giving their lives to Christ. The fire of persecution only spread the fire of the Gospel. Hill’s faithfulness brought renewal to a generation weary of racial strife, and his message of Jesus still echoes today.

Angulus Wilson: The Gospel in the Midst of Pain

Dr. Angulus Wilson has preached on street corners, in college chapels, and on foreign soil, always calling people to Christ. But revival came in an unexpected way—through his suffering. After enduring painful surgery and moments of deep weakness, he learned that the anointing of God flows strongest in broken vessels.

In one particular sermon he wrote, while still recovering from surgery, **“God is still worthy, even when you’re wounded!”** His ministry continues to call weary souls to press on, knowing that God’s strength is made perfect in weakness. These men lived with a fire that could not be quenched. Revival came because they dared to believe that **God is still**

moving! Will we take up the torch and run our race? Let's be the spark that sets the next generation ablaze!

Dr. Angulus Wilson: A Pillar of Spiritual Leadership, Preaching, and Missionary Service

Dr. Angulus Wilson has been a transformative figure in spiritual leadership for over 35 years, shaping the lives of many through his roles as Chaplain, preacher, professor, and author. His journey of ministry and service has not only been impactful in the lives of individuals but also in the broader Christian community, where his leadership has been marked by a deep commitment to training others for the work of the ministry. His multifaceted contributions to Wheaton College and beyond have left a lasting imprint on Christian leadership development, particularly in the African American church tradition.

A Man of God: Chaplaincy and Spiritual Leadership

As the Chaplain at Wheaton College, Dr. Wilson's leadership transcends the typical confines of academic settings. His work has been marked by an unwavering commitment to helping students grow spiritually, preparing them to lead with integrity, humility, and compassion. His ability to communicate the Gospel with clarity and power, often through the lens of African American preaching traditions, has deeply resonated with those he has mentored. Dr. Wilson's leadership in this capacity is not merely about providing spiritual guidance for college students; it's about cultivating a sense of calling, helping students recognize the significance of ministry in all aspects of life. His teaching encourages a holistic approach to spiritual formation, one that integrates faith, intellect, and service.

Through his chaplaincy, Dr. Wilson has trained individuals to think critically about their faith and its application in both the church and the broader world. His leadership encourages Wheaton College students to pursue ministry with an understanding of its demands, challenges, and joys, equipping them to be faithful in their vocations whether they are in ministry full-time or engaging in secular spheres with a missional mindset.

A Preacher of Righteousness: The Art of Black Preaching

Dr. Wilson's approach to preaching is rooted in the African American tradition, marked by its emotive power, its ability to convey the profound truths of Scripture with passion, and its invitation to deep personal transformation. His preaching has impacted countless congregants, both within the Wheaton College community and beyond. Known for his vivid imagery, rhythmic delivery, and heartfelt appeals, Dr. Wilson's sermons are a call to not only hear the word of God but to respond with conviction and action.

In his preaching, Dr. Wilson models the importance of expository preaching, where the message is drawn directly from Scripture and applied to the lives of the listeners in a way that is relevant to their experiences. His skill in connecting the timeless truths of the Bible with the contemporary struggles and hopes of his audience makes his preaching accessible and transformative. He teaches his students to approach Scripture with a sense of awe and responsibility, guiding them in learning how to communicate God's message with clarity and relevance.

A Teacher of Ministers: Professor and Mentor

Dr. Wilson's impact as a professor has been profound. His role at Wheaton College has seen him shape the next generation of Christian leaders, particularly in the areas of homiletics, pastoral care, and ministry leadership. He possesses an incredible ability to impart knowledge while fostering a deep sense of personal responsibility for one's ministry calling. As a professor, he doesn't just teach theology and biblical studies; he models what it means to be a servant-leader in the truest sense.

His students are not merely recipients of academic knowledge; they are mentored into lives of ministry. Dr. Wilson's pedagogical approach emphasizes the importance of character, compassion, and cultural competence—qualities that are essential for effective ministry. His legacy is seen in the numerous alumni who, having sat under his teaching, now serve in churches, nonprofits, and missions around the world.

His mentorship goes beyond the classroom, where many have benefitted from one-on-one guidance in navigating the challenges of ministry life. By instilling a deep sense of servant leadership, Dr. Wilson ensures that his students not only excel in their academic pursuits but also develop a heart for the people they will serve.

A Missionary at Heart: Spreading the Gospel Globally

Dr. Wilson's leadership extends beyond Wheaton College and the United States, as his work as a missionary has taken him to different parts of the world. His global ministry has allowed him to be a part of movements that seek to share the Gospel and equip the global church for its mission in the world. His passion for cross-cultural ministry reflects his broader commitment to God's work on earth, seeing the Great Commission as a call that transcends geographic and cultural boundaries.

As a missionary, Dr. Wilson has emphasized the need for the church to understand its role in global missions. He often speaks of the church's mission to engage with and serve communities across the world, not as a one-sided benefactor but as a partner in building God's kingdom. His teachings on mission focus on the importance of cultural sensitivity, humility, and the centrality of the Gospel in all endeavors.

The Legacy of 35 Years of Leadership and Service

Dr. Angulus Wilson's 35 years of leadership and service in the church and academia have left an indelible mark on the ministry landscape. His unique ability to train others for the work of the ministry—whether through preaching, teaching, or direct mentorship—has equipped countless individuals to step into the world of ministry with both competence and compassion. His leadership is a model of servant-hearted care, an example of what it means to lead with humility and integrity, and a testament to the power of God's calling.

Through his years of service, Dr. Wilson has not only trained individuals for ministry but has also demonstrated what it looks like to live a life of faithful service to God's kingdom. His work continues to inspire future generations of leaders, preachers, and missionaries to carry forward the message of Christ with conviction, love, and humility.

In summary, Dr. Angulus Wilson is more than a chaplain, preacher, professor, and missionary. He is a servant leader whose legacy will endure for years to come, as those he has mentored continue to impact the world with the message of Christ. His leadership, driven by a deep faith and a commitment to the work of ministry, has shaped not only the lives of individuals but also the direction of the church and the future of Christian leadership.

