



I. THOUGHTS ON SPIRITUAL FIRE

1. Enthusiasm is seeing God in everything

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.
Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

2. Enthusiasm is based on choice—not circumstances

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
Romans 12:11 (NIV)

II. THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT SARDIS – 3:1-6

1. The Lord's characteristic for this church

- **The One who holds the seven spirits and stars in His hand**
- **Jesus is establishing His sovereignty over all things**
- **He commands His angels to help me**

All the angels are spirits who serve God and are sent to help those who will receive salvation.

Hebrews 1:14 (NCV)

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways
Psalm 91:11 (NIV)

2. The Lord's compliment of this church

- **You have a reputation for being alive**
- **At one time Sardis was a dynamic and growing congregation**

3. The Lord's complaint against this church

- **You have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead**

- Evidently, there was no difference between the church and pagan culture

4. The Lord's counsel to this church—Five Commands:

- **Wake up!**

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

- **Strengthen what remains and is about to die**
- **Remember what I have received and heard**
- **Decide to obey what I remember**
- **Repent—changing my mind and direction**

⇒ If I don't—I will not be ready for Jesus' return

⇒ If I do:

- ◆ I will wear eternal robes
- ◆ My name will never be removed from the book of life
- ◆ Jesus will acknowledge me before God and His angels

