

# SEVEN

## Church at Sardis

**Scriptures:** Rev. 3:1-6; Phil. 2:5-8 (see v7 in KJV); Luke 6:26; Eph. 2:1-4.

1. Read Rom. 12:1-2. The city of Sardis appeared to have more influence on the church than the church had on the city. In which ways might that be a challenge to your church/town today?
2. Read Rev. 3:1-6. How would you have reacted/responded if the letter to Sardis had been sent to your church? What, essentially, was being said to the church at Sardis? What is our challenge today?
3. The church at Sardis was a bit like a dead star in that it was shining by the light of a brilliant past. In which way might we look at the “glories” of the past in the wrong way? What is the right way?
4. “Worry about your CHARACTER, not your REPUTATION, because your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.” In our age of social media, do you think there is more focus on the building of reputation rather than on development of character?
5. What does a spiritually alive church look like? What might a spiritually dead church look like? [be careful not to focus on styles of service]
6. The church at Sardis did not suffer hardship, persecution or opposition (quite unlike the churches we’ve encountered so far). Why do you think this might be? What is our lesson from this?
7. Smith Wigglesworth once said, “Great faith is the product of great fights. Great testimonies are the outcome of great tests. Great triumphs can only come out of great trials.” Has this been your experience? What should our reaction be in times of great trials?
8. What was Jesus’ response to the “dead” church of Sardis? (v3). What spiritual lessons might we learn from Jesus’ words?