



The Lord's Flock International Retreat

A CHURCH ON FIRE OR A DEAD CHURCH

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The Spirit pointed out to the Church in Sardis that the problem was spiritual death (Rev. 3: 1-6). This is happening in our world today. The churches in Europe are half empty and are losing attendees. Most of the church goers are senior citizens. While Techie (Soar) Rodriguez was in prayer, a divine inspiration came to her to "ignite the fire among the youth."

1. Members are in spiritual slumber. When one sleeps, he/she is not aware of what's happening. "Sleeping" connotes apathy. We need to be "awake" and constantly aware of our surroundings.

Jesus found His disciples sleeping thrice (Mt. 26: 40). Jesus was able to accept His forthcoming suffering and death because He wasn't sleeping. He was praying.

We need to be watchful and alert for Satan's attacks. St. Peter warned us to be sober and vigilant because the devil is like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5: 8).

Leaders should not be satisfied and complacent that some members do not attend the weekly assemblies. Instead, they should encourage one another (Heb. 10: 25).

2. Sardis' fire stopped burning. Many members are "choked" with too many concerns. The zeal has died down. If we allow the devil to extinguish the fire in us, it will happen.

3. The Attitude of Many Believers. We cannot lead the Worship if we are not a worshipper ourself. We need to be leaders who are filled with the Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6: 3).

4. Not engaging effectively. Keep our members on fire! Let them see and feel God's love through us. Avoid lukewarmness in: Evangelism, Prayer, Giving, Serving, Worship, and in Life. We cannot be lukewarm ministers. Fire is gone when we lack intimacy with God. We must make sure that the zeal and fervor in us is always burning.

"The fire on the altar is to be kept burning; it must not go out" (Lev. 6: 5).

To be a church on fire, we must:

1) Prepare for the "fire." 2) Have fellowship with God. Strive to know God better. 3) Consistently be filled with the Holy spirit. 4) Light the "fire" because the Devil won't come if the fire is hot: 4a) Pray, 4b) Serve God, 4c) Study the Bible, 4d) Read the Bible regularly. 5) Maintain a high level of commitment.

Conclusion: A church on fire symbolizes the presence of God. Let us offer our body as a living sacrifice (Romans 12: 1). God is looking for people who are passionate to serve God.

Reflection: Are you fired up for Jesus? Or are you now "embers" or "ashes?"

Scribes Ministry

Transcribed by: Teresita Florentino