

# The Churches of Revelation: Jesus Speaks His Mind *Pt. 6—Staying Strong When You Feel Weak*

June 21, 2009

Ephesus was **"Busy"**

*Jesus said...* Return to your first love

Smyrna was **"Suffering"**

*Jesus said...* Be fearless, Be faithful

Pergamum was **"Confused"**

*Jesus said...* Recognize that "doubts" grow out of relationship

Thyatira was **"Tolerant"**

*Jesus said...* Stay uncomfortable with all that violates Scripture

Sardis was **"Dying"**

*Jesus said...* Don't give up, wake up!

## The Church at Philadelphia

**Revelation 3:7** "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open:

**Isaiah 22:22** I will give him the key to the house of David—the highest position in the royal court. When he opens doors, no one will be able to close them; when he closes doors, no one will be able to open them.

"Jesus brings comfort continually and is totally aware of your situation"

## Jesus Commendation to the Church

**Revelation 3:8** "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.

"Jesus can increase influence and give opportunity wherever He chooses"

**Revelation 3:9-10** Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love. Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.

3 K i n d s o f C h u r c h e s ...

The trendy & flashy church

The busier is better church

**The simple church**

## Jesus Challenge to the Church

**Revelation 3:11,13** I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. ... "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

### How to be Strong when you feel weak:

- Take Notice

**1 Corinthians 10:12** If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.

- Take Responsibility

**2 Thessalonians 3:13** As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.

- Take Heart

**Revelation 3:12** All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.

- Put your hope in our faithful and almighty God

**Psalms 146:5-6** But joyful are those who have the God of Israel<sup>a</sup> as their helper, whose hope is in the LORD their God. He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever.