

Week 6: Spiritual Learning Journal

We have just completed Jesus' letters to the 7 churches. So many of your discussions have already prepared you for this week's task. All of you have noted connections to the church today. All of you have been moved deeply by Christ's prophetic oversight of the churches.

1. This week, write a letter to the Church of America from the Lord using the structure you have come to expect: (1) a description of Jesus from the descriptions of Christ in chapter 1 (or any of the letters), (2) what Jesus would commend the church for, (3) what you think Jesus would rebuke the church for, (4) the challenge you imagine lies before us in the form of an exhortation or warning from Christ, and (5) a promise that you think the church needs to hear.

These things says the One who lives, and was dead, and is alive forevermore, Who has the keys of Hades and Death:

"Many of you have been faithful and persevered in what you have heard in My word and have continued to do the work of My hands. You have suffered by your refusal to compromise your faith in My name.

However, I have this against you, you have allowed society to remove me from before you. A society that denies me, who I don't know. Because of this, false prophets and teachers are deceiving My people spiritually, morally, even politically. They are teaching abominations in My name (though I don't know them), compromising the Truth of My word and tolerating even encouraging sin. They have created discord within the church, telling their members that you don't follow Me because you won't tolerate their sin.

Resist and rebuke these false teachers who are seducing and deceiving My people. Who do not teach My word. Who have created political idols. Who are preying on the weak and lonely. They must repent of their deeds and return to Me or I will use the keys of Hades and Death against them, to prevent them from entering the New Jerusalem.

Be faithful until death. He who overcomes I will give you the crown of life and I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

2. After you complete your letter, pray about what you have written. Then share in a sentence or two how this assignment and prayer impacted you personally.

This assignment has been difficult for me. When I think about the church today, I think about all of the different denominations and the subtle and sometimes blatant differences between them. I think of what society has done to churches and Christians, or rather, what we've really done to ourselves over time. We have allowed God to be removed from almost everywhere except within our churches. I would also say, from within some churches. The last couple of years have made me open my eyes to what the world has become. My observations have led me to believe that it is directly due to removing God from the center of our lives. From our public lives. What could we and what would we accomplish in Jesus' name if we stood up in our Christian faith and refused to be told we aren't allowed to use our voice and speak His name?