When we purchase products of man's making, usually we receive an owners manual. Which gives instruction for best operating practices and how to properly assemble it. So that we might receive the most effective use and longevity of the product.

We are the product of God, and God has given us a users manual for best operating practices. Which we should pay close attention (Proverbs 3:1-8). Only then will we enjoy the benefits of a prosperous and effective life, with eternal benefits, through obedience to God's laws.

Revelation 1:11 (MLV)
11 Hold to the angel of the church in Sardis write. These things says He who **has the seven Spirits of God** and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

HOLD, HE WHO HAS

SARDIS

& the seven spirits of God

This is the first of two evaluation reports where nothing positive is said about the congregation; except a brief condolence in verse 3.

1 **Bible interpretation**

2 **seven Spirits of God** - seven out of imagery in Zechariah indicating the fullness of the Spirit's presence.

Most of the symbols found in the Book of Revelation, have their source in Old Testament imagery.

Primarily they are found in **Zechariah**, **Ezekiel**, **Daniel**, **Isaiah**, and especially **Daniel**. So in order to understand this Spectacular language from the book of Revelation we need to look to some of these Old Testament prophets.

Very important that we don't just start assigning new meaning to these symbols and events, that have been already identified in the Old Testament.

That's why God in His wisdom introduces these symbols and these events in preserved fashion throughout the Old Testament so that when you get to Revelation, everything comes together.

It's not new revelation.

But our job is to tie together the Old Testament imagery with the book of Revelation in order to understand what's being communicated.

3 **The seven Spirits of God?**

Seven is a description of the Lamb.
Scripture Ref (MLV)
Revelation 5:6 (MLV)
6 And I saw, between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having **seven horns**, and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits** of God sent out into all the earth.

The vision in chapter 1

Revelation 1:4 (MLV)
4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from He who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits **who are before His throne**

Revelation 1:5 (MLV) 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

The seven spirits are before God the Father's Throne, not Jesus Christ's

A reference of the Holy Spirit
God the Father

Revelation 2:1 (MLV)
1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write. These things says He who **holds** the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

A much stronger word

NAS Lexicon **retained**, **hold**, **to** - 1) to have, derived, to possess, hold 1 Ac 18:8 **to hold as its, grip, seize** Rev 2:1

Strong's: hold

Revelation 3:1 (MLV)
1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write. "These things says **He who has** the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, **I.N.ST.Y. present, have, own**

A reference of the Holy Spirit
Jesus Christ

Through the shift to the use of this word he's indicating that Jesus Christ **has** these things;

emphasizing the source of the Holy Spirit and the source of the churches, is from the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

The local point for the church that's being emphasized here, is that through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is directing them to the solution to their problem of spiritual failure.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.
3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard, hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.
4 But you have a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.
5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

4 **The function of the Holy Spirit in history**

This is the period after the return from the Babylonian captivity around 530 BC.

Chapters 3 and 4 of Zechariah focus on the two leaders, Zerubbabel and Joshua, **and their role in bringing about a cleansing of Israel** as they come back to the land and the dedication of the new temple.

Chapter three, verses 1-10 is a picture of the **personal cleansing** of Joshua the high priest.
the inspiration of righteousness.

Zechariah 3:1-10 (MLV)
3 Then he showed me JOSHUA the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.
2 And the Lord said to Satan: "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand pulled from the fire?"
4 **Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and he standing before the Angel.**
5 Then he answered and spoke to those standing before him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "**I have removed your iniquity from you**, and I will clothe you with rich robes."
6 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on His head." So they put a clean turban on His head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.

He **has** Chief place before God

Verses 6-10 is a picture of future cleansing.
So it moves from history to prophecy, the future cleansing that will come to Israel when God finally delivers them.

It is denoting their attention away from their current situation to a situation that is still in the future.

7 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you walk in My ways, and if you keep My command, then you also shall judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts. **I will give you place to walk Among** those who stand here.

If - Hebrew **im** - 1) if, when, whether, though, whether, or, if not, if only, if, if, if