

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN A DYING & HOPELESS WORLD

SALT &
LIGHT



- We live in a **WICKED & DARK** world
(Gen 6:5; 2 Tim 3:1-5)
- The PEOPLE of GOD are to be a positive **INFLUENCE** & guiding **EXAMPLE** (John 17:15-18; Rom. 2:17-24; Phili. 2:15,16)
- In order to be **EFFECTIVE**, we **MUST** be genuinely **HOLY** in **CHARACTER, WORD, & DEED**. (5:3-12; Jn 17:15-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Pet 1:13-17; 2:11,12)

SALT &
LIGHT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
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A still life composition featuring a globe in the upper left, a lit candle in the center, a pile of white salt in the foreground, and a Bible with 'HOLY BIBLE' on its spine in the lower foreground.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A DYING & HOPELESS WORLD

Pass the
SALT & Turn on the
LIGHT

We can be a positive influence in this world
ONLY if we are very different from the world!

Matthew 5:13–16 (NKJV)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A DYING & HOPELESS WORLD

You ARE The Salt of The Earth

- Necessary for life
- Preservative for fish / meats
- Antiseptic and healing properties / tooth decay and tooth aches
- Ingredient in the sacred anointing oil and used in sacrifices (Num. 18:19)



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You ARE The Salt of The Earth

Salt Seasons

- Job said, “Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?” (Job 6:6)
- Our words should be with salt, i.e. wholesome and palatable (Col. 4:6)



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Salt Preserves

- There were not enough salty saints to save the antediluvian world (Gen. 6:7-13)
- Abraham pleading with the Lord regarding Sodom (Gen 18:20-32)
- Jerusalem “If you can find a man . . . I will pardon her” (Jer. 5:1)



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Salt Heals

- Salt has antiseptic and healing properties.
- When babies were born, they were given a saline bath to hold down infection (Ezekiel 16:4)
- We live in a sick world infected by sin – are we salty enough to help it?



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Salt Irritates

- Salt burns in a wound!
- The truth of God's Word, when rubbed into this diseased world, will sting (Mat. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22; John 15:20; 2 Tim 3:12)
- Many prefer a non-irritating brand of the Gospel (2 Tim. 4:3.4)



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Salt Penetrates

- In order for salt to season, preserve, heal or irritate, it must come into contact with that which it is intended to affect.
- We must get the salt to the source, where it can penetrate, activate, and change society (John 17:13-18; 1 Thes 1:8)



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Salt Causes Thirst

- You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink - - - but you can give it salt.
- Consistent godly influence is very powerful (1 Pet. 3:1; 1 Cor. 9:19-22)
- The sermon you preach is not nearly as effective as the sermon you live!



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You ARE The Salt of The Earth

Polluted Salt Is Useless

- “Salt seasons and preserves beef, NOT because it is like beef, but because it is very much unlike it.” - Chesterton
- Our positive influence is ONLY found in our holy distinctiveness (Luke 14:34; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; James 4:4)



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Polluted Salt Is harmful

- Brings dishonor and and a reproach upon God and His people (Rom 2:24; 1 Tim 5:14; 6:1)
- Inconsistency in the lives of those who profess to be followers of Christ has indeed caused many to be offended! (Mat. 18:7; Titus 2:1-8)



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Polluted Salt Is Thrown Out

- It is to be discarded – trampled under the feet of men (Luke 14:35; Mat 7:23; 25:41)
- The REAL possibility of one losing their salvation & being lost (John 15:1-10; Rom. 11:17-22; Heb. 10:24-39)



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You ARE The LIGHT of The World

A City On A Hill

- Those with the character of Christ and follow Him will radiate His light (John 8:12; Prov 4:18; Eph 5:8-10)
- Our Christianity should be evident. - Jesus expects His followers to be visible to the world (e.g., Jn 13:35; 17:21; 1 Peter 3:15)

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)
14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.



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You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Don't Hide Your Light

- Collectively we are to proclaim the gospel every way we can (Mt. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 8:4; 1 The 1:8)
- **The greatest impact will be accomplished on the individual level!**

Matthew 5:15 (NKJV)
15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.



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You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Don't Hide Your Light

- Walking in the light (1 John 1:5,6)
- Walk as children of light (Eph 5:8-19; 1 Peter 2:9)
- Our light is to be seen by others (Phili 2:15, 16), *[Not the same as those Jesus condemned (Mat 6:2, 16-18)]*

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)
16 Let your light so shine
before men, that they may see
your good works and glorify
your Father in heaven.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A DYING & HOPELESS WORLD

You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- We are to be morally pure (Eph 5:3-13; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21; 1 Pet. 4:1-4)
- We cannot be a positive influence in a morally depraved society while engaging in, approving of, or compromising with worldliness, (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1) (Fornication, homosexuality, MDR, abortion, drunkenness, injustice, ...)

*Pure – Truthful
Loving – Helpful –
Instructive – Uplifting*

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Lives That Glorify God

- Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, . . . (Eph 5:4)
- Sound speech that cannot be condemned, . . . (Titus 2:8)
- “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.” (Eph 4:15)

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You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- Modest clothing Professing godliness (1 Tim 2:9,10)
- Moderation in all things allowed (Rom. 14:15-23; 1 Cor. 10:23)
- Abstinence from all things forbidden (1 Cor. 6:19; Col. 3:5)

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Lives That Glorify God

- The Beatitudes, [humility, hate sin, meekness, hunger for God, merciful, pure, peacemakers, faithful] (Mat 5:3-12)
- A supreme Love for God and a sincere love for our fellowman (Mark 12:29-31; 1 Cor. 13:3-8)
- Optimistic / Hopeful (Phili 4:8,12,13)

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Lives That Glorify God

- Worship according to the NT pattern (John 4:24; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:26; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2)
- Attendance / reverence (Heb 10:25; 12:28)

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You ARE The LIGHT of The World

Lives That Glorify God

- Caring for one another (1 John 3:17)
- Acts of kindness (James 1:27)
- Our public practice, (Rom. 1:16; Col. 3:16) / *(praying in public? Reading the Bible? Talking about spiritual things with others, godly living)*

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You ARE The SALT of the earth and the LIGHT of The World

- This is not a time to be passive in our faithfulness to the Lord!
- For our **Nations** sake –
- For our **communities** sake
- For our **own** sake
- For our **children's** sake . . .
- For our **brethren's** sake –
- Mostly – For the **Lord's** sake!



A still life composition featuring a globe in the upper left, a lit candle in the center, a pile of salt in the foreground, and a Bible at the bottom. The background is a dark, textured surface.

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**What Kind of Influence Are We
Providing For Those Around Us?**



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Are You A Child of God?
If So - Are You Providing The Positive
Influence You Should?
Are You Glorifying God?



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Philippians 2:12–18 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,

Philippians 2:12–18 (NKJV)

among whom you shine as lights in the world,
16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may
rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run
in vain or labored in vain. 17 Yes, and if I am
being poured out *as a drink offering* on the
sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad
and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same reason
you also be glad and rejoice with me.

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Salt & Light

Matthew 5:13-16