

Weekly Prayer Theme: 13th Sep-20th Sep

Being Salt & Light

THEME OVERVIEW: How often do we hear that Christians are to be 'Salt and Light'? Meaning that as Christians, by our witness, we should be salt and light in this world. This is only half the story. The verse states that we are to be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World; as 'salt' and 'light' are very unlike so the 'Earth' and the 'World' are two different areas where Christians are to be effective.

The 'earth' and the 'world' as used here are two different areas of operation. Earth here refers to Christians taking part in society wherever our calling in life takes us; whether as a politician, a shopkeeper, teacher, nurse, police, train driver, car driver, in charitable institutions, or as neighbours, school governor etc. The list is endless. The word for world is Kosmos and refers to the world (in a wider or narrow sense), including its inhabitants. It is Jesus who is the light of the world while a Christian is to be a light holder. A Candle has no light of its own but is lit from an outside source. The difference between a candle and a person is that the light of the candle brings about its death. The light of the Christian, as the Christian dies to self, begins to show more and more until the light is seen in them. What other source could there be for a Christian but Jesus who is the light of the world! So we become more and more like Him.

So when we pray along these lines the earth refers to smaller regions of society while the world refers to an all encompassing of the world's inhabitants. We all need light - the Light of God, Jesus our Saviour. As the salt of the earth we will have an unseen influence and as the Light of the world, we will have an influence that attracts.

BIBLE VERSES:

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. Colossians 4:6

LIFT UP 100

PRAYER POINTS:

- Salt flavours, preserves and can be used in healing. Pray for yourself that you may be salt of the earth. Where do you have most influence? In your family, at work, in your community, at school/college/university etc. Pray you will be a good influence, will stand for righteousness with grace and be a person whom people can trust to bring God's peace and comfort.
- Light dispels darkness and guides. Pray for yourself that the light of Christ in you would bring illumination of the Gospel to those you encounter. May your life point the way to Jesus. Pray the Spirit to help you become more like Him.
- Pray for the church you are part of to be full of people who are light of the world and salt of the earth.

CREATIVE IDEAS/PRAYER ROOM:

Using objects can help to focus prayers and engage your senses. Why not try these?

Have some salt. Salt makes a difference. Salt flavours. Salt stops decay.

- Taste some of the salt. As you taste the salt, allow the flavour to inspire you as you pray that you would be a good influence and effect in your community.
- OR get some salt & shake crisps. Open an bag of crisps and let people taste them plain. Then open another packet and do the salt and shake routine. Now taste them now- much better! This helps us to realize the difference salt can make. Pray you will make a difference where you are.
- Maybe sprinkle some salt on a map of your area signifying prophetically that you will be salt in your community.
- Why not get some small salt packets and carry them with you as a visual reminder this week?

Have candles available. Light dispels darkness. Light guides the way.

- Light a small tea light from a large candle (signifying Christ as Light of the World – the source of light in our own lives).
- Have objects of light – torch, candle, lightbulb etc. Each can shed light in a different way. Ask God to show you if anything is obstructing the light in your life.
- You could try Glow in the Dark objects - Candles will eventually burn themselves out but glow in the dark objects keep absorbing light and brightening the darkness day after day. A great visual reminder that we are to keep absorbing and reflecting the Light of Christ.

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