

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

No Other Name, Better Than Life, Jesus Son of God, Victor's Crown

WELCOME

This is Life. What are you living for that makes you alive and motivated to live? What is your purpose in life?

WORD

MATTHEW 5:13-16

¹³*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.* ¹⁴*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;* ¹⁵*nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.* ¹⁶*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

To live without a purpose is one of the greatest tragedies in the world, but to live with the wrong purpose is so much worse. We would be wasting our precious life if we are not living for the right purpose.

Jesus gave us the purpose of life based on the eight Beatitudes (**Matthew 5:1-10**). He then urged His followers to practice these eight principles of Christlikeness in order for them to live out their purpose to be the "salt and light" of the world.

When Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world," the construction of the sentence was emphatic in the original Greek. It means that you (and you alone) are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH (MATTHEW 5:13)

Today, we may take for granted the use of salt, but in the time of Jesus, they understood its value. It is used as preservative, antiseptic and flavoring. Salt was crucial for survival. In fact, Roman soldiers were oftentimes paid with salt for their salary. This is why 'salary,' from the Latin 'salarium' comes from the word 'salt.'

The world is decaying. According to research, the cases of suicide, divorce, incarceration, HIV and teenage pregnancy are growing in numbers. The decaying world obviously needs salt.

If the meat is rotting, do not blame the meat. When the world is decaying, do not blame the world. The question to ask is, where is the salt that shall delay the decay? So, the answer to the decaying world is not

technology, not the politicians or the government, but the salt of the earth, us followers of Christ.

Throughout history, Christians as the salt of the earth, have significantly made an impact to the world – from children, women, health, education, economics, arts, music and law. Christians gave children the right to live, fought for women to be heard and counted in society, introduced health and sanitation, abolished slavery, established the first universities and orphanages, wrote the principles of private property and hard work, etc.

Chemically speaking, salt or sodium chloride is a stable compound. But when salt is mixed with impurities or is contaminated, it will lose its saltiness and it will be good for nothing (**Matthew 5:13**).

The Bible warns us that we should not copy the world and get ourselves contaminated or else we will lose our saltiness. To be Christ-like is to be set apart, to be distinctly different. Do not be too friendly with the world that people cannot see anymore our difference from the world. To live out our purpose of being salt and light, we need to stay pure in Jesus, preach the Word of God, and refuse compromising our moral life. People may not like us, at first, but if the fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in us (**Galatians 5:22-23**), they will be attracted to know Jesus.

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (MATTHEW 5:14)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Light is not for itself. The very purpose of

WORD (cont'd)

light is to brighten up the darkness, to reveal the truth and to help people see it.

Jesus is the very Light of the world (**John 8:12**). Therefore, we can only become the light of the world when Jesus is in us, for how can we be Christ-like without Christ?

If we are true followers of Jesus, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so, when people look at us, they are to see Jesus. Sadly, there are so many who call themselves Christians today but they are not really following Christ. If we are true Christians, we have Jesus in us who transforms us, and gives us the desire and power to live like Him. The light of Jesus shines in our lives to let people see Him in us, so that we may glorify our God who is in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**).

The world is dark and people are in darkness. But the good news is, the darker it is, the brighter the presence of light becomes. Even a small light can dispel the greatest of darkness.

HOW TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

How do we live out our purpose as the salt and light of the world? Be Christ-like, be intentional, assume responsibility, work excellently, go beyond expectations, gain the respect of people, and share Christ.

The world will not come to us, we must go out to them; the salt must go outside the salt shaker. Light, set on top of the hill, cannot be hidden. Whether we are at home, in the workplace and elsewhere, let us live out our purpose. Be the salt and light of the world for the glory and honor of the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Salt and Light.** What are your observations from **Matthew 5:13–14**? What does it mean to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world?
2. **Purpose Quotient.** Have you been living out your life with a purpose? How far or close are you to your purpose?
3. **Nobody but You.** Who are the people in your life who are “decaying” or seem to be lost in darkness? How can you live out your purpose to be a salt and light to them?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

It's not the ship in the water but the water in the ship that sinks it. So it's not the Christian in the world but the world in the Christian that constitutes the danger.
- J Wilbur Chapman

Take some moments of reflection to check in to your life. What do people see in you? Are you being the salt and light to them? Will you be able to share Jesus effectively because you make them attracted to Him through your life?

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends