

5-Day Devotional: You Are the Salt of the Earth

AM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – August 9, 2026

The Christian in the World: Salt, Influence, and Purpose

Day 1: You Are Different By Design

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Devotional: The Beatitudes describe a person who stands in sharp contrast to the surrounding world. The Christian is not meant to blend in but to stand out through meekness, mercy, and a hunger for righteousness. This distinctiveness is not a burden to bear but a calling to embrace. The world may misunderstand you, mock you, or even persecute you for it. But Jesus calls those very experiences blessed. Your difference is not an accident. It is the fingerprint of God upon your character. Ask yourself today: does my life look noticeably different from those around me, and if not, why not?

Day 2: Blessed to Be a Blessing

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Peter 2:9-10

Devotional: Long before Jesus walked the earth, God established a pattern with Abraham. The blessing He gives is never meant to stop with the one who receives it. In Genesis 12, God summarizes the nature of His relationship with His people: He blesses so that they will become a blessing to others. Peter echoes this same truth when he describes believers as a chosen generation and a royal priesthood called to proclaim the praises of God. You were not saved merely to secure your own eternity. You were saved to carry light into dark places and to point others toward the God who rescued you.

Day 3: Salt That Has Not Lost Its Flavor

Reading: Matthew 5:13; Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Jesus warns that salt which has lost its flavor is good for nothing. The danger He describes is not dramatic rebellion but quiet conformity. When the Christian slowly absorbs the

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values, habits, and priorities of the surrounding culture, the preserving power that God placed within him becomes diluted and ineffective. Paul's instruction in Romans 12 reinforces this warning, urging believers not to be pressed into the mold of the world but to be transformed from within. Worldliness does not always announce itself loudly. It often creeps in through comfort, compromise, and the desire to simply fit in. Guard your saltiness with intentional devotion.

Day 4: The Power of Personal Righteousness

Reading: 1 Timothy 4:6-16; Titus 2:11-12

Devotional: The influence God calls you to exercise in the world is not primarily political, social, or institutional. It flows from the inside out, from a life shaped by truth, obedience, and godly conduct. Paul instructed Timothy to nourish himself on sound doctrine and to be an example in conduct, spirit, and purity so that his progress would be visible to all around him. God's method of reforming the world is personal righteousness lived openly before others. Your calm in crisis, your integrity in temptation, and your faithfulness in daily duty are forms of proclamation. They declare that God is real and that He transforms those who belong to Him.

Day 5: Preserving the Next Generation

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 John 2:15-17

Devotional: One of the most urgent applications of salt-like influence is found within the home. Faithful parents who teach God's word, model godly conduct, and guard their children from worldly corruption are doing some of the most powerful preserving work available to any believer. The world will not hesitate to shape your children in its own image if you surrender that responsibility. John reminds us that the world and its desires are passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever. What you invest in the hearts of the next generation outlasts everything the world offers. Be deliberate. Be present. Be salty.