

# Changing Our World: The Call of Every Christian

## Text: Matthew 5:13–16 (NIV)

“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.”

A few years ago, a major power outage hit a large city. Neighborhoods went completely dark — no lights, no street lamps, no glowing windows.

But one news reporter noticed something unusual. In the middle of that blackout,

**one house still had its lights on.**

When he went to investigate, the homeowner smiled and said,

“Our power doesn’t come from the grid. It comes from above — we use solar panels.”

Church, that’s a picture of what the world should see in us. When everything around us grows dark, **our light should still shine.**

Our hope, our strength, our love — it doesn’t come from this world. It comes from **above**, from Jesus Christ living in us.

Jesus told His disciples — and He tells us today —

“You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.”

Not someday, not “if you’re perfect,” but **right now**.

Wherever you live, work, and worship — **you are God’s plan to change your world**.

### **Point 1: We Are Called to Be Salt — Preserving What Is Good**

Salt preserves, purifies, and adds flavor. Likewise, Christians preserve goodness in a world that’s decaying with sin. We do this not by withdrawing, but by living holy and gracious lives in the middle of it all.

#### **Illustration:**

A Christian teacher once said that every morning she prayed, “Lord, let Your Spirit go before me into this classroom.”

Years later, a student told her, “You’re the reason I still believe in good people.”

She didn’t realize it, but she had been **salt** in that school — preserving hope and goodness through simple faithfulness.

#### **Cross References (Full Scripture):**

- **Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- **1 Peter 1:15 (NIV)**

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.”

## **Point 2: We Are Called to Be Light — Revealing What Is True**

Light exposes darkness and brings direction.

When believers live in truth and love, they illuminate the path toward Jesus.

### **Illustration:**

Have you ever lit a candle in a dark room? The moment that flame appears, the darkness retreats. You don't need to yell at the darkness — you just need to shine.

In the same way, even a small act of kindness, a word of truth, or a moment of forgiveness can brighten someone's spiritual darkness.

### **Cross References (Full Scripture):**

- **Philippians 2:15 (NIV)**

“So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.”

- **John 8:12 (NIV)**

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

### **Point 3: We Change the World Through Loving Service**

Jesus said people will glorify the Father when they see our **good deeds**.

The world is changed not just by what we say, but by how we serve.

#### **Illustration:**

A Nazarene church once adopted a struggling neighborhood. They cleaned up parks, delivered groceries, helped with school supplies, and prayed with people on their porches.

Months later, one neighbor said, “I still don’t know everything about your church, but I know this — you love us.”

That’s the power of light.

Love in action changes hearts faster than words alone ever could.

#### **Cross References (Full Scripture):**

- **Galatians 5:13 (NIV)**

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

- **James 2:17 (NIV)**

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

## Point 4: We Must Believe Our Influence Matters

The enemy wants us to believe our influence doesn't matter — that one person can't make a difference.

But throughout history, God has changed the world through ordinary people filled with extraordinary faith.

### Illustration:

John Wesley once said, *“Give me one hundred men who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergy or laymen — they alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth.”*

You and I are those people today.

If the Holy Spirit lives in you, then **your life is God's tool for transformation** — in your family, your job, your school, your community.

### Cross References (Full Scripture):

- **Zechariah 4:10 (NIV)**

“Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?”

- **Acts 1:8 (NIV)**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### Conclusion: Shine, Serve, and Stand Firm

The world doesn't need a louder church — it needs a **brighter** one.

It doesn't need a perfect church — it needs a **holy** one.

It doesn't need a church that points fingers — it needs a church that **extends hands**.

God has placed us right here, in this community, for such a time as this.

Let's be salt that preserves goodness.

Let's be light that reveals Christ.

Let's live in such a way that people around us say, *"There must be a God — because I can see Him in them."*

*Illustration: Ella calling my previous pastor, Jesus.*