

Encounter Church  
Sunday March 10, 2024

Salt and Light in a Shifting Culture  
What Am I Saying

INTRODUCTION: From the very beginning I believe God's desire has been that His children be a reflection of who He is. A reflection that is formed out of a relationship with God.

Genesis 1:26- "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;..."

***I believe this is still God's desire! And in a shifting culture what's not shifting is the character of God, who He is!***

One day-God the Son, Jesus Christ, shows up on a mountainside and He begins to communicate, to teach. (Matthew 5)

Blessed are the poor in spirit.  
Blessed are those who mourn.  
Blessed are the meek.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.  
Blessed are the merciful.  
Blessed are the pure in heart.  
Blessed are the peacemakers.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted.

Matthew 5:13- "You are the salt of the earth..."

Matthew 5:14- "You are the light of the world..."

***Recognize that your life has either a positive or negative effect. Live responsibly to bring Glory to God! Be a reflection of your Heavenly Father.***

I believe God communicates this throughout the Bible. "***I want your life to point people to Me!***"

**HOW CAN I POINT SOMEONE TO GOD? HOW CAN I BE SALT AND LIGHT?**

Isaiah 8:12- "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

Isaiah 8:19- "...But shouldn't people ask God for guidance? Should the living seek guidance from the dead?"

**"You should be spending time with me! Asking me for guidance." THAT'S PRAYING!**

***But it's not just about praying! It's also about what I'm saying!***

**To be salt and light in a shifting culture, it's not just about what I'm praying, it's also about what I'm saying!**

Some of us are so frustrated with what's happening in our culture because we've been praying, praying, praying. And nothing is happening.

**But what am I saying, saying, saying!**

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR WORDS.

### **1. Words carry a blessing or curse.**

Proverbs 18:21- "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."

James 3:10- "And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!"

### **2. Your tongue can move a mountain.**

Mark 11:22-24- "So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea, 'and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

***It's not just about what you're praying but also about what you're saying!***

### **3. You change your words by changing your heart.**

Matthew 12:34- ".....For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

**LISTEN TO YOURSELF!** Are you speaking negatively about everything? Are you criticizing everything? Do you complain about everything?

"If it's in the well, it will come up in the bucket." -Pastor Roy Stockstill

***Your tongue will change when your heart changes!***

Isaiah 6:5-9- “So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.” Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” And He said, “Go, and tell this people:...”

***It's not just about what I'm praying, it's also about what I'm saying!***

CONCLUSION:

Colossians 4:5-6- “Conduct yourself with wisdom in your interactions with outsiders (non-believers), make the most of each opportunity [treating it as something precious]. Let your speech at all times be gracious and pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to answer each one [who questions you].”

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?