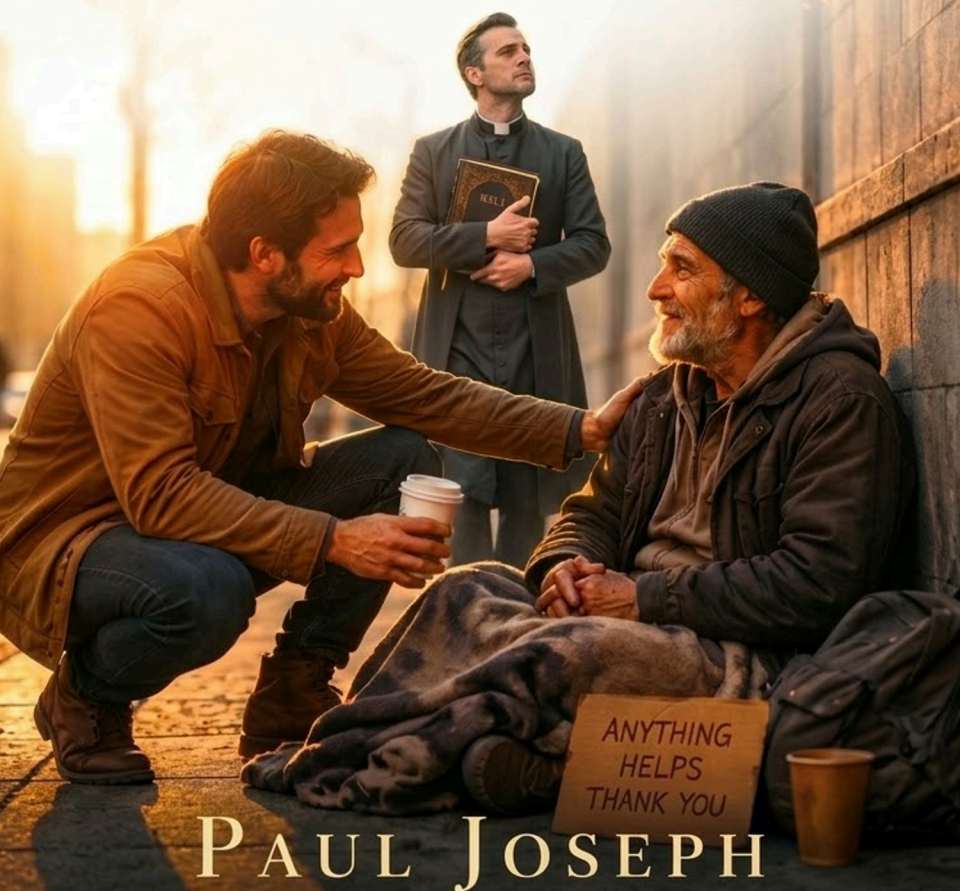


If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor



PAUL JOSEPH

If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor

*A Call to Visible Faith, Compassion, and Kingdom
Purpose*

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CHAPTER 1

Preface

Jesus did not save us so we could disappear into the background. He called us the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt preserves, seasons, and changes what it touches. Light exposes darkness, gives direction, and makes a way visible. These were not casual illustrations. They were Jesus' description of what His followers are meant to be in the world.

The question is not whether the world is dark, confused, hurting, and spiritually hungry. It is whether the people of God are still carrying the flavor, courage, compassion, truth, and visible love of Christ into the places where they live.

A Christian can attend church, know Scripture, sing songs, and still lose spiritual effectiveness. When disciples stop abiding in Christ, stop obeying His Word, stop caring for people, stop sharing their faith, and stop using what God has placed in their hands, they become like salt that has lost its savor.

This book is a call back to purpose.

It is a call to remain connected to Jesus, because no branch can bear fruit apart from the vine. It is a call to stop treating Christianity as a private belief and begin living it as a public witness. It is a call to care for the hungry, the lonely, the wounded, the forgotten, and the searching. It is a call to speak the good news of Jesus with love, humility, boldness, and compassion.

The Gospel is not merely information to hold. It is seed to sow. You may never stand behind a pulpit. You may be a parent, student, tradesperson, employee, entrepreneur, caregiver, or

business owner. But wherever God has placed you, you are an ambassador of Christ. Your words, your kindness, your integrity, your testimony, your willingness to serve, and your courage to speak can become the salt and light that changes another person's direction.

The world does not need believers who blend in.

It needs disciples who carry the presence of Jesus into ordinary places and make His love impossible to ignore.

CHAPTER 2

If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor

Ever taken a bite into a meal that's completely bland? It's disappointing, right? That's exactly what Jesus was getting at when He delivered one of His most striking metaphors: **"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men"** (Matthew 5:13).

Let's sit with that for a minute. Jesus isn't just giving us a cooking lesson – He's dropping a truth bomb about what happens when Christians lose their effectiveness. And I've got to be honest, this one hits hard. The message is crystal clear: if we've lost our spiritual fire, our sense of purpose, our ability to make a difference... we've missed the whole point of being followers of Christ.

Think about salt in ancient times. Before we had fridges humming in our kitchens, salt wasn't just for taste – it was literally a lifesaver. People used it to keep food from spoiling. In the same way, Christians are meant to be spiritual preservatives in a world that's prone to decay. We're called to spread God's truth like salt spreads through food, preventing the rot of godlessness, moral decay, and chaos.

But here's where it gets even more interesting. When you add salt to food, it doesn't just season it temporarily – it transforms it permanently. That's what we're supposed to do in our communities and culture. We're not called to be secret Christians or Sunday-only believers. We're meant to be living, breathing examples of Christ's transformative power.

Jesus spelled this out beautifully in John 15:4-5: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." It's a simple but profound truth – we can't make a difference if we're disconnected from our source.

And this isn't some obscure teaching tucked away in a forgotten corner of Scripture. Jesus dropped this salt metaphor right in the middle of the Beatitudes – basically the greatest sermon ever preached. He was painting a picture of what authentic Christianity looks like: being poor in spirit, living in genuine repentance, walking in meekness, hungering for righteousness, showing mercy. When we stop living these values, we're like salt that's lost its flavor or a light hidden under a table – basically useless for our intended purpose.

Jesus doubled down on this in John 8:31: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." The message is unmistakable: our effectiveness as Christians isn't about showing up for church or wearing a cross necklace. It's about living out our faith in real, tangible ways that impact the world around us.

This is what I call the real price of non-discipleship – becoming tasteless salt in a world desperately needing flavor and sense. When we lose our distinctive Christ-like character, we're not just letting ourselves down; we're failing to fulfill our divine purpose in the world.

The way that we're supposed to make a difference in our communities is spelled out in Matthew 25:35-36 when Jesus said, "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me". In other words, wherever we see a need, we care enough to do something about it. It's all part of loving our brother/sister the same as we would like it be done unto us.

Jesus said, **“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear MUCH fruit; so you will be My disciples”** (John 15:8). Jesus glorified the Father by bearing fruit in every walk of His life. He preached the good news, He healed the sick, cast out devils and raised the dead! To put it mildly, he was on a mission to obey and to fulfill God’s will.

He was bringing the Kingdom of God to earth in everything He did! For us to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God, as Jesus did, we must “receive the seed (the Word of God) into the good ground of our heart”, and we will then bear much fruit in different measures. **“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty”** (Matthew 13:23).

I like what Dan Mohler says. "My whole life, I was told that Jesus died for me because I was a sinner. And it left me a "forgiven sinner" --not a son. Nobody ever told me that He died on the cross to restore my purpose and reveal my potential and destiny, that He actually died on the cross because he saw great value in what I could be when He lived inside of me. Of course He had to die because I sinned, but He did not die because I was a sinner, but because I was a lost son. The cross doesn't expose your sin, it removes your sin to expose your potential and your value. “But my whole life, I was taught a sin-conscious gospel that preyed on my depravity, to get me to say "I'm sorry". But it's the goodness of God that leads man to repent and change. We should teach what people are called to be. The goodness of God gets into you and brings change inside of you."

Jesus didn't just come to save us, but to restore something that was lost: Our true identity as sons of God was lost, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in us was lost.

The Holy Spirit is not a ghost, not a wind, not a fire, nor a dove. He's often symbolised by those things, but don't minimize Him,

that is not who He is. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Not third because He is least in value, but third because He's the last to be revealed to us in the pages of scripture. But all of the power, all of the glory, all of the authority, all of the grandeur of God the Father, is in the person of the Holy Spirit.

This means, if you're a believer and the Holy Spirit lives in you, it means ALL of the grandeur and all the greatness, ALL of the authority of God Himself now lives on the inside of you. So if you are a believer, you HAVE the Holy Spirit, you have all the power that resurrected Christ from the dead. This is no small thing.

God has already filled us with the fullness of His presence, His Holy Spirit. We're endowed with the power to help us do it. But the Holy Spirit is a helper, not an initiator. We must do the "venting". Jesus said, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."** (Matthew 28:19).

Regardless of our work or occupation, it is our primary responsibility to share the love of God with people. We can't say, "Well, I'm not a preacher, so I don't have to be a light to the world." Jesus said to all believers, **"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"** (Matthew 5:14 thru 16).

In other words, He was saying that to be like Him is to be a LIGHT. God has given each one of us gifts and talents to use for His glory. God shaped all of us differently and He takes pleasure in seeing us use the gifts and the talents He's given us.

People spend a lifetime trying to find their purpose, or their destiny. Actually the best way to find God's will is to say "I will" to God. God is giving us the majesty of choice, but He alone knows what is best. Why? Because He created us. The first requirement in finding your destiny is having no will of your own. Or better said, is to align your will with His. That's why Jesus said that the first requirement of a disciple is to deny himself. And Paul added, that we must be transformed by the renewing of our mind so that we may prove what is that good and acceptable will of God. (Romans 12: 1, 2). God gives the very best to those who leave the choice up to him.

A Question of Purpose

There is a little story worth passing on to you.

One time, a young man who had just graduated from Oxford University approached a friend of the family Prime Minister Gladstone, and asked if Mr. Gladstone would listen to the plan he had mapped out for his life. Gladstone said, "fine. Tell me". "Well I have graduated, and I intend to take the bar exam and practice law". "That's fine, what then?" "After some experience, I hope to run for Parliament". "That's great, what then?" "I hope to make some contribution towards the betterment of our country." "Excellent. What then?" "Well after a while, I will retire". "Very well. What then?" "Well, I guess someday I'll die". "That's right. What then?" Well, I don't know..." Prime minister Gladstone fixed his eyes on the young man and with a piercing gaze said to him, "young man you are a fool. Go home, and think your life through again". Would you get the same response if you had laid out your plans, your purposes, your intentions for your life before God? What is your real purpose for living? Jesus said, **"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or**

what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

(Matthew 16:25-26)

It remains our primary responsibility to share God's love and to be a DOER of the teachings of Jesus in whatever capacity we are being used in. For the sake of people who sit in darkness, Christians cannot be silent about their testimony and their faith.

Remember the "Parable of the Talents"? The master was most pleased with those who used and grew their talents and he was disappointed in the one who did nothing with his talents. This parable is not only related to the gifts that God gives us, but to winning souls and making disciples. Jesus said that that's what the Kingdom is about. **"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability"** (Matthew 25:14 thru 30).

Jesus passed on to us the secret to discipleship in John 15: **"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing"** (John 15:4 and 5). Taking time to "abide" in the Lord and His Word will give us the strength and vision to be what Jesus wants us to be to all whom we meet.

The "multitudes are suffering" in our world today, just as they were in Jesus' day and we need Jesus' compassion for them. **"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'"** (Matthew 9:36 thru 38).

Shining our light in today's society is becoming more and more of a challenge. There is greater opposition to the Word of God and even to the name of Jesus. It is important for Christians to ask the Holy Spirit for His understanding of the people we meet.

“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

“I desire mercy and not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:13). In other words, “I would rather see you have love and not just a dutiful law-keeping offering of sacrifices and good works. I'd rather you give love to somebody than to just be so self-righteous and judge and condemn them.”

The drunks, drug addicts, street-walkers and sinners need to come to Jesus also!--Just like when He was walking this earth. They (the outcasts) came to Him for love and mercy, and He treated them tenderly, kindly and forgivingly, and gave them hope and love and strength. Those downhearted and downtrodden didn't go to the harsh, rigid, self-righteous, unyielding, unforgiving, critical and condemning religious leaders. Those leaders told them to be perfect or go to hell! **“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”** (1 Peter 4:8). It could be easy to love someone in your circle of friends, but where our love for God gets tested is with the “unlovely”. Those are only met with self-righteousness. But when you realize how much you need mercy yourself, it's easier to be merciful to others; -- remembering continually what sinners we are and how many mistakes we've made helps greatly to keep us humble and to avoid that spirit of self-righteous pride which causes us to criticise and condemn others.

Jesus came into a very imperfect and sinful world, looking at all of us with love, when we were sinners, not knowing God! **“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a**

good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7,8).

There are so many people searching for love! –People everywhere are looking around for some little ray of hope, some salvation, some kind of bright spot somewhere! A little love, a little mercy, someplace where they can find some relief!--And if you can show them that love really does exist, then they can believe that God exists! **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34).**

The state of mankind didn't keep Jesus from doing what His Father had sent Him to do. **“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23).** Jesus did shine His light for everyone to see, and we are commissioned to do the same! He said, **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).**

Since we are talking about salt that has lost its savor, here's one verse that will really hurt. **“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.” (Ezekiel 22:30)**

I keep emphasizing the importance of accountability in Christianity simply because once we believe in Christ, we are not only saved and made righteous, but we are also commanded to share the good news with others, so they can also be made righteous. It's awesome that we are redeemed and therefore no longer afraid to die because we know we have eternal life, but we may be ashamed to die because we were not winning souls, and may arrive in heaven empty-handed, with little to show for our life.

Remember all of our peripheral works will be burned. It says, **"According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."** (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

There are many stories and jokes about Peter at the Gates of Heaven, but what if his main responsibility was to give us the tally of the souls we've won, so we can give it to Jesus to help Him determine our eternal rewards. This is scripture. "If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward". We look to faith healers as great miracle workers, but in reality, the greatest miracle is that of a soul saved. That's when all heaven rejoices.

What if, once in heaven, we were to hear our neighbor cry out from hell, "Why didn't you tell me about Christ?" God says that we'll be held accountable. **"That same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand."** (Ezekiel 3:18). Just think, if we received \$1000 for every soul we won, would that make a difference to us? The truth is that we receive so much more, but our rewards are stored in heaven. Jesus says, **"And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'" (Luke 19:17)**

So, there is such a thing as promotion in the Kingdom. These verses, while there may be a little prickly and convicting, are

also in the same Bible that you read.

You could transpose the parable of the talents to the responsibility given by the Lord of looking after 10 converts and growing them into 100 by discipling them. And because you're faithful with those, you'll be given 10 cities, which could amount to as many as 100,000 people to look after and train. Remember, we're coming back to earth for 1000 years after the marriage supper. (Rev 19:11-20:4)

Rewards are something to look forward to in our faith journey. As the Bible says, **"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"** (2 Corinthians 5:10). Jesus also taught that true riches are stored in heaven, and that we should **"lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal"** (Matthew 6:20).

Our goal should be not only to win converts, but also to train leaders, disciples who will spread the gospel and bring others to Christ. Paul told Timothy, **"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"** (2 Timothy 2:2). We should bring our converts to a deeper level of discipleship, which involves constantly renewing our minds according to God's word.

Training leaders for the kingdom is a laborious process, but it is necessary to make sure that they are not only saved, but also useful to God and others. There is no concept of "membership" in the Bible, only discipleship. This means that our faith should be at the forefront of all our earthly activities, no matter what our profession. For example, a Christian plumber should witness to their customers, and a Christian entrepreneur should witness to those they do business with. As Paul says, **"Now then, we are**

ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Run the Race With Purpose

Paul reminds us to run the race with purpose, just like an athlete in training. He says, **"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air" (1 Corinthians 9:24-26).**

The main reason God sent Jesus to die for us is because of souls. Reinhart Bunke once replied to a question about "why did Jesus have to come and die" by saying, "I can think of over 7 billion reasons why Jesus died. He came to restore every person back into intimate fellowship with God, their Father." And when asked about the Bible verse regarding the road to hell being packed with many people while the road to heaven is a small path, Reinhart replied, "That's why Jesus put a roadblock on the way to hell by planting the CROSS, and He created a detour towards the path to heaven. Since then, Heaven should be even more packed than hell, and that's what we're here for".

Many believers lose their faith and commitment to God because they lack a purpose in their Christian life. Some don't share their faith because they truly don't believe, or they struggle with sin, or perhaps they fear rejection, or they feel they don't know how to share their faith. But the early disciples in the book of Acts said, **"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20).** So much so that the apostles only prayed for more boldness even after receiving persecution, **"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all BOLDNESS they may speak Your word, by**

stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29-30). Billy Graham once said, "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

Soul winning helps us discover our true purpose and destiny. It energizes our Christianity like nothing else. When you come back from witnessing and leading someone to God, you feel energized and beam with joy because you have seen a miracle with your own eyes, a new birth. Soul winning is the best energizer for any church denomination. It brings everyone's focus back to God and prevents church splits, politics, gossip, and other issues. When everyone is working for the Lord and looking in the same direction, there is no room for quarrels. Soul winning keeps you from backsliding and helps you endure till the end.

Billy Graham once said, "The greatest cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who claim to believe in Jesus but deny him through their actions. This is what an unbelieving world finds unbelievable."

The passion of Christ is the compassion that He had for the multitudes. (Matthew 9:36). His greatest desire was to return people to their created destiny and their full potential, once freed from the lies of the enemy.--Lies that caused illnesses, demon possession, trauma, stress and fear. The Passion of Christ is for everyone to be filled with God's Spirit so that they can live life to their full potential and purpose.

The vision that should burn in the heart of every believer should be to replicate that same passion. We know too much not to let people know. (Luke 12:48). God said, "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.**" (Hosea 4:6). If only people knew that they could be redeemed through the love of God, they could be transformed.

The Compassion of Christ

Only God has the kind of love that reaches the rejected and destitute: the sex traffickers, prostitutes, crippled, diseased, addicts, homeless and criminals. He can take a totally deranged terrorist leader like Paul and turn his demented vision around to the right mission and purpose for his life and make him a world changer. (Acts 13:47).

That's what the vision and the passion of Christ is all about. He was willing to endure the cross because of that passionate hope that all men could be restored to their God-given destiny. His passion was translated into full-on heart-wrenching compassion. He had such compassion on the multitudes that He healed and delivered them all. Preaching the Kingdom then revealed their true identity and lit up their destiny.

We may not like the accountability that comes with following Jesus' commands, but a close reading of the Gospels reveals that He gives us very little room for deviation. He is serious in His instructions. While we may prefer to focus on the positive aspects of the gospel, such as grace, forgiveness, and mercy, Jesus also preached about hell to His own disciples. He warned them about the need for a single-minded dedication to their faith on earth and the need to remove any obstacles that stand in the way. **"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched"** (Mark 9:43).

The idea of hell is not a pleasant one, and we often avoid thinking about what happens after life. However, there is a significant fork in the road after death, as it is **"appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"** (Hebrews 9:27).

Jesus told a parable to illustrate this separation in the afterlife. In the story, a rich man lived a luxurious life while a beggar named

Lazarus was left at his gate, covered in sores and longing for scraps of food. When both men died, Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham's side, while the rich man was tormented in hell. Looking up, he saw Abraham and Lazarus, and begged for relief, but was told that there was a great chasm between them and no one could cross over. The rich man then asked that Lazarus be sent to his father's house to warn his five brothers, but was told that they already had Moses and the Prophets to listen to. The parable ends with a warning that even if someone (Jesus) were to rise from the dead, those who do not listen to Moses and the Prophets would not be convinced (Luke 16:14-31).

Paul, considered the greatest of the apostles, who did so much for Christ, regarded all of his achievements, education, and worldly honors to be "dung" compared to his love for the gospel. **"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"** (Philippians 3:8).

He goes on to say, **"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 3:13-14).

An Ambassador of Christ

So, while it is good to be loving, uplifting, and encouraging, we must remember that people do not go to heaven simply because of encouragement. We must give people the opportunity to make a decision for Christ. There must be a clear repentance and a declaration of faith, as it says, **"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"** (Romans 10:9). People

must know that there is "no other name under heaven by which they can be saved", as **"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12).

So, what's our profession? We may answer "oh, I'm a plumber." But no, in reality, you are first an ambassador of Christ and you also do plumbing. We were born again not only for our own benefit, but to bless others as well. We were re-created for a specific purpose: **"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them"** (Ephesians 2:10).

Let's remember Jesus' last command. He said, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen"** (Matthew 28:18-20).

Paul was so passionate about the great commission that he told the Romans that he would even give up his own salvation if it meant that they all could be saved. **"I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh"** (Romans 9:1-3).

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for HIM who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Yes, it's a SACRIFICE to Witness and to Evangelize. Like the old lady said when she was told she needed to go out witnessing, "Oh, this just kills me!" Well, that's exactly what it should do. It should kill your pride, your old self, your selfishness, your egotism, and it may even cause some considerable sacrifice and strain. But that is what Jesus said in John 12:24, 25, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

However, the duty of every Christian is to witness. We don't do it out of duty, but out of love and obedience to Jesus' commission as well as in appreciation for what Jesus did for us. If the whole purpose of our existence was to get saved, the Lord could have worked it out for us to go to heaven as soon as we did. But it is because we are saved that we are sent out as ambassadors of the GOOD news. "And He said to them, **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."** (Mark 16:15)

Good News to the World

And, He wants to save the whole world, but in order to do so He needs us to tell others about His love, and His message of reconciliation, the Gospel, the good news, to the whole world. Jesus said, **"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."** (John 20:21)

Remember, the Gospel is good news, not bad news. In all of our witnessing, we should dwell on the positive, not the negative. Peter says, "instructs Christians to sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts" and always be prepared to give a gentle, respectful defense ("apologia") to anyone asking for the reason for their hope. It emphasizes maintaining a clear conscience and godly conduct, even while facing persecution or suffering for righteousness 1 Pet 3:15)

Jesus said, "When you go in someone's house leave your peace." In other words, let them know you come in peace. The way I

usually start witnessing is either by agreeing to something the person said, or complementing them, or commending them. There is nothing more powerful than encouragement and commendation to start a witnessing conversation. You're basically telling them that you're coming in peace, not in confrontation.

Be friendly, loving, understanding, compassionate and sympathetic, establishing as many points of agreement as you can dwell on, things that you share in common, not the points of disagreement.

Fighting over the system issues and false doctrines can be a temptation when you know you're right and they're wrong, but that's a negative type of preaching and witnessing. And that kind of approach does not win people. The best way to attack points of disagreement is not by a frontal attack against the lies, but just by presenting the light, the positive. Preach the truth, and that alone will shatter the scaffoldings of the lies. He who would win some, must be winsome.

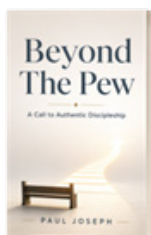
The life of God is not in the sower, it's in the seed. We're to sow seeds of truth and love into people's lives and it's God's job to win them. We cannot force results, we cannot force people to make a decision. Whether or not they choose to believe and receive and follow the truth is between them and God. One person sows the seed, another may water it, but it is God that gives the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:6) We should do all we can to prepare the ground. Our job is simply to go forth bearing precious seeds and to plant them into fertile, fruitful, receptive hearts. We may not always see the harvest ourselves, but as long as we have faithfully done our part, we can leave the rest up to the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 3

Closing Prayer

Father, We are here because someone cared enough to show us the way in. Let's not keep the light to ourselves! Lord, help us remember that we are called to be Your ambassadors. Break our hearts for what breaks Yours and give us the boldness to share Your love with those around us. May we take our responsibility to lead souls to You as the most important mission of our lives. Amen.

Other Books by Paul



Beyond The
Pew



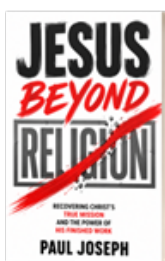
While You Were
Busy



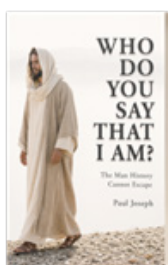
The Butterfly
Wonder



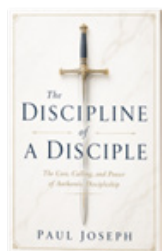
Power For The
Hour



Jesus Beyond
Religion



Who Do You
Say That I Am



The Discipline
of A Disciple



The Discipline
of Triumph



The Handbook
For a Disciple of
Jesus

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If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor

A Call to Visible Faith, Compassion, and Kingdom Purpose

You are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus gave His followers a clear calling: do not lose your distinctiveness. Do not hide your light. Do not become passive in a world that desperately needs truth, compassion, courage, and the good news of Christ.

If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor is a challenging and practical call to move beyond private Christianity and become a visible disciple of Jesus in everyday life.

Inside, you will discover how to:

- Remain spiritually effective by abiding in Christ
- Live as salt that preserves truth and resists moral decay
- Shine as light through visible good works and godly character
- Turn compassion into practical action for people in need
- Share the Gospel with boldness, humility, and genuine love
- Use your gifts, work, and daily opportunities for Kingdom purpose
- Move from church membership thinking to real discipleship
- Help new believers grow into strong, fruitful followers of Jesus
- Develop a heart for the lost, the broken, and the overlooked
- Store up eternal fruit by faithfully serving God's mission

The world is full of people looking for hope, mercy, truth, and someone who will care enough to point them toward Jesus.

You were not saved merely to survive until heaven.

You were saved, sent, and empowered to make a difference.

Be salt. Be light. Bear fruit. Make disciples.

PAUL JOSEPH

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