



# HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart



ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE WORLD!





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FEBRUARY 27, 2024

## ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD — MATTHEW 5:13

Matthew 5:13 (KJV)

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?

it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Matthew 5:13 (NIV2011)

13 “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.

Matthew 5:13 (ESV)

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

Matthew 5:13 (MSG)

13 “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.



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**If the eight beatitudes we just studied are a reality in our lives, what does Jesus say will be the result in Matthew 5:13a?**

**Salt is of no use if it remains in a salt shaker. To be effective, it must come out of the shaker; the same is true of us as Christians. To make a difference in this world, we can't just be salt at church.**

**We must be salt at home, at work, at school... everywhere.**

**In Jesus' prayer the night before His crucifixion, He says He has brought glory to God the Father by completing the work the Father gave Him to do (Jn 17:4).**

**Then, what does our Lord pray in John 17:18?**



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That statement not only applies to His original disciples but also to you and me. This means we are to bring glory to God the Father by completing the work He sent us here to do, which is living out the Beatitudes. As a result, we will be the salt of the earth. There are at least five ways we can make a difference in the world by being the salt of the earth ...

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## By the way we radiate

After more than 2,000 years, salt is still the primary way we bring out the good flavor in our food. Being the salt of the earth means we bring good flavor to life. We live in a very unhappy world. As Christians, we should bring out happiness wherever there is depression and sadness. The Beatitudes are all about how to be blessed. The word translated blessed means "divine delight." Jesus not only came so our sins could be forgiven, but also so we can experience divine delight. How does Jesus express this in John 15:11?

The word translated joy (chara, har-ah') means delight or gladness. We live in a world where people are trying to numb their unhappiness with pleasure, possessions, prestige, and parties. Therefore, few things can attract nonbelievers to Christ like the genuine joy and gladness we should radiate. You can bring flavor to a very unhappy world right now. Look at someone and smile with divine delight on your face. It may be very difficult, but with the Lord's help, you can do it! It is God's will that you do this because of what command in 1 Thessalonians 5:16?

This is a command. The word translated rejoice means happy or joyful. When we don't obey one of God's commands, we sin. So, if we don't want to sin right now, we better be joyful. What a difference we could make in the world if we would just radiate joy! We can make a difference in this world by the way we radiate and ...

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## By the way we communicate



In Jesus' day there were no refrigerators. Therefore, salt was used as a preservative to keep fish and other meats from decaying. As Christians, we are to be like salt, preserving a decaying culture. Few things reveal our decaying culture like the way people communicate. The language of our culture is becoming more and more vulgar, filthy, and irreverent. We shouldn't talk like this because of what command in Colossians 4:6a—b?

If our speech is gracious, it will be kind, courteous, and complimentary, as opposed to being rude, crude, or hateful. Whether communicating with our spouses, children, co-workers, fellow students, or whoever, our speech should always be "seasoned with grace." This is one way we become more like Christ because what does Luke 4:22a tell us about our Lord?

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If our speech is always gracious and seasoned with salt, our words will be pure and wholesome as opposed to filthy, vulgar, or irreverent. When a conversation begins to decay, our speech should be a preservative, seeking to keep the dialogue wholesome and to build up others (Eph. 4:29).

We can make a difference in the world by the way we radiate, communicate, and ...

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By the way we refuse to deviate

We are to be the salt of the earth. Salt, or sodium chloride, is a stable compound. Therefore, it is always salt, but it can become contaminated. Jesus says when it becomes contaminated, "It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet" (Mt 5:13c). In ancient times, contaminated salt was scattered on the soil of flat roofs to harden the soil and prevent leaks. The flat roofs were also used as playgrounds and places to enjoy a cool breeze on hot days. Thus, the salt was thrown out and trampled. If we become contaminated by deviating from biblical teachings about sex, marriage, or morality, we will make no difference in our world. Jesus didn't call us to be sugar; He called us to be salt. Salt sometimes irritates; that's why we will be persecuted and harassed if we are the salt of the earth and refuse to conform to our decaying culture. One other characteristic of salt: what happens when you put it on a cut or wound? It stings! If we are the salt of the earth, there will be times our words sting or hurt. For example, what does Proverbs 27:6a tell us?

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**This means a friend who is truly the salt of the earth will tell us what we need to hear, not what we want to hear. They will tell us when we are wrong, about to make a bad decision, or get off track spiritually. The stinging words of a true friend, who is the salt of the earth, are faithful. We can make a difference in the world by the way we radiate, communicate, refuse to deviate, and....**

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## By the way we captivate

What happens if you put a little salt in your mouth? You become thirsty because salt creates thirst. Jesus made people thirsty for God, whether it was the very religious, like Nicodemus (Jn. 3), or the very sinful, like the woman at the well (Jn 4). If we are the salt of the earth, we will make people spiritually thirsty. That's why 1 Peter 3:15b gives us what command?

When we are the salt of the earth, all kinds of people will be drawn to Christ and will ask us questions about our faith. When was the last time someone asked you about your hope in Christ? The Bible tells us to make the most of our time (Col. 4:5). To do that, we must always be prepared to share our faith, using something like the Roman Road (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8, & 10:9-10). We should also invite them to our church services. We can make a difference in the world by the way we radiate, communicate, refuse to deviate, captivate, and ...

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**By the way we rededicate**



At times we all get off-course in our spiritual lives and are no longer the salt of the earth. Jesus said: "but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?" (5:13b). Have you lost your saltiness by being polluted by the world in your speech, honesty, morals, etc.? If so, how can you be restored? When our lives are contaminated by the ways of the world, we cease being the salt of the earth. Then, we must pray what prayer of King David found in Psalm 51:1b?

The Hebrew word translated blot out (māḥâ, maw-hah') means to utterly wipe away or erase. When we pray and ask God to blot out, or cleanse, all our sin so we can be salty again, it is not enough to merely confess our sin. According to Proverbs 28:13b, what else is required? This means we must not commit the sin any more. This is what the Bible calls "repentance," which means to turn away from sin. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth." He didn't say, "You are the gold of the earth" or "You are the diamonds of the earth." He said we are salt—a very common substance. By using common people, like you and me, God makes the biggest difference in the world. Jesus took eleven uneducated, country-speaking disciples and changed the world so it would never be the same. He wants to do the same with you and me. No matter who you are, you can say what words of Paul in Philippians 4:13?

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**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE WORLD BY THE WAY  
YOU RADIATE, COMMUNICATE,  
REFUSE TO DEVIATE,  
CAPTIVATE, AND REDEDICATE.**



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