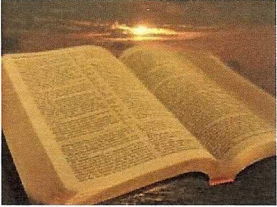




Being Spiritual



Jesus calls disciples to live in the world, not as belonging to it (of the world) but as the salt of the earth. They are to influence for good what is rotting and decaying in this world. He gave further instructions that true disciples are to be lights to the world. They are to reveal the greatness and power of God in transforming

lives because of the hope secured for us in the cross (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 John 3:1-4; Romans 8:18-21). Light and salt do not function in some capacity outside of what they are. The nature of light is to illuminate; that is just what it does. The nature of salt is to flavor and preserve that is just what it does. Salt doesn't have to say I am not this or that anymore than light has to say I am not this or that.

Christians, like light and salt, do not have to call attention to what they are. They live for God submitting to His will and they are what they are – light to and salt in the world. Jesus had a clear disdain for the religious of His day who sought to make themselves more pious (more spiritual) by conforming to external practices rather than conforming the heart to the will of God (Matthew 6:1-8; 23:1-36). Do you want to be a spiritually-minded (light and salt) Christian? There is but one way and that is to live by the Spirit, as those who belong to Christ (Galatians 5:24-25). You can't "out-spiritual" the Spirit. The best we can do is walk by the Spirit. He is our guide and revealer of the truth contained in the New Testament which is all that is necessary for us to know to go to Heaven. Our light will never outshine the light of the Scriptures but our lives will shine brightly in the world as we follow the word because that is who we are! *Bill Robinson*

