

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Psalms 4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep [*but not in Bible class*], for You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety.

Matthew 5:13–16

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

- Remember that **salt** prevents decay.

In review of things that had been accomplished - -

1. John the Baptist had prepared the way for the nation Israel to receive her promised Messiah-King (**Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-5**).

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord.’”

2. Many had been identified with the kingdom through John’s baptism and identified the promised King (**Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:5; John 1:35-37**).

3. Prophecy had been fulfilled and divine authority and power demonstrated by Jesus, thus authenticating Him as Messiah (**Matthew 1:1, 22-23; 2:6 cf. 2 Samuel 7:12a; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1; Luke 7:22 cf. Isaiah 35:5; Luke 4:14-21 cf. Isaiah 61:1**).

4. The religious types were mounting a counterattack to prevent Messiah’s momentum (**John 5:15-18; Mark 2:16, 24; 3:6**).

5. Therefore, Jesus Christ selected the twelve as a **force multiplier**. They would. . .

- Call out the subjects of the kingdom through **preaching** the kingdom message.
- **Educate** the subjects to prepare them to function effectively in the kingdom when it is instituted.
- **Salt** had to retain its tastefulness in order to be useful.
- The disciples, as they functioned in accordance with their divine design, would prevent the decay of what had thus been accomplished.

Once the King is rejected and cut off, the disciples are sent out to organize and educate a different group of kingdom subjects.

- Those who are subjects in the **kingdom** of Christ’s body, the Church.
 - ✓ Kingdom – **βασιλεία** – **BASILEIA** – “*Territory ruled by a king*”
 - ✓ There are different kingdoms ruled by God –
 - The universe
 - The spiritual kingdom – the soul
 - The kingdom of the body of Christ – the Church
 - The Messianic kingdom

They change from being Apostles of the [Messianic] Kingdom to Apostles of the Church once the nation rejects her King!

- For the Church to be preserved from decay, the apostles had to fulfill the will of Christ *in contact* with fellow members of the body of Christ.
 - Was contact enough? **No**
 - They also had to **do** what the Lord had for them to do.
- For the **Church** to be preserved from decay today, we have to come into *contact* with each other as *we do* what Christ has for us to do.

POD - The spiritual supply line effectively functions through contact with one another to prevent decay in the life of the believer.

What about those in Israel who had not heard the kingdom message?

¹⁴ “You are the **light** of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

What does **light** do?

- ✓ Light illuminates darkness.
- ✓ Wherever light shines, darkness is cast out.
- ✓ Light has an attractive quality about it.

The disciples are to illuminate people who have not heard the kingdom message by shining the message of the kingdom upon them.

. . . A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Light attracts people out of the dark.

- ✓ People are naturally attracted to light when they are in the dark.
- ✓ Unbelievers are attracted to the light because they are in the dark!
- ✓ You always desire to walk in the direction of the light, because it has a very attractive quality about it.

The disciples’ attractive quality. . .

¹⁶ “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

“**Good works**” - τὰ καλὰ ἔργα

καλός indicating the work is acceptable to God – “*Well-pleasing*”

As the disciples [*as apostles of the kingdom*] are fulfilling all that the King has for them to do, the light of their spiritual life will shine and people will be attracted to it.

How do the metaphors of salt and light apply to us living today?

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth

- As salt preserves that which it comes into contact with from decay, so we as believers must have contact with fellow believers.
- As we fulfill the responsibilities of our Church Age Believer Priesthood, *in contact* with fellow believers, spiritual decay will be prevented through the work that God would have you do.

POD (1) - Spiritual decay is prevented through *contact* between fellow believers (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13; Ephesians 4:16 cf. Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 11-13

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**.

Spiritual Gifts are for the benefit of those with whom you are in contact.

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. ¹² For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Ephesians 4:16

From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint (***contact that***) supplieth, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Contact is only half of the equation.

POD (2) - The believers in contact must be functioning according to their divine design, in the geographical will of God, for *maximum* impact (Ephesians 4:16; Romans 1:13; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 3:3, 6).

- God has a **place** for you to be.
- Your **enemies** (*the world, the flesh, and the devil*) will work to counter any attempt to be where God wants you to be.
- The flesh is opposed to the geographical will of God for your life.
- Your adversary, the devil, will do everything he can to prevent you from being there.
- He will use the world to accomplish that.

Should you arrive in that place, the leading of the Spirit which brought you there must be remembered, so that you will be able to withstand your adversary's attempts to take you out of that place to which God has led you.

- Most Christians never experience the leading of the Spirit. To them, the will of God is never revealed.

POD (3) - This geographical will is only revealed to the believer who *desires* God's will [above all things] and walks dependently upon the Spirit to direct his paths.

- ✓ The geographical will of God is revealed through the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit from within as God directs circumstances from without.
- ✓ All you have to do is knock. . . to have that willingness to follow the lead of the Lord.
- ✓ Nothing can be more important to you than fulfilling all that God has for you in this life.

13 "You are the salt of the earth. . .

14 "You are the light of the world. . .

- When we are living the unique spiritual life in the manner God intended it to be lived - it is attractive to others and people are drawn to it.
- The character of Christ is being manifested from within, by the Spirit, as you walk in dependence upon Him.

As those of the world are drawn to you, you must illuminate them with the message in fulfillment of your ambassadorship responsibilities.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.