

Life Group Homework

THE PURPOSE AND POWER OF SALT AND LIGHT

Matthew 5:13-16

Let's Get Started:

One of the spiritual errors that reinforces performance-based Christianity is “law-based thinking.” We tend to look at the scriptures as a rulebook rather than an invitation for an intimate relationship with God. Most of us know what it is like to get caught up in religious performance. On days we perform well, it seems that God is “OK” with us. On days or weeks when we’re not doing so well, God may seem silent, distant or disappointed.

Why do you think Christians feel that God is disappointed in or disillusioned about his children’s lack of acceptable Christian performance?

Let's Dig In:

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21

a. According to this scripture, true believers are the righteousness of God. In your own words, what is the “righteousness of God?”

b. Do you think becoming the “righteousness of God” is a process or a Divine declaration that from this day on God says you are “my righteousness?”

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

a. Do you find it more difficult to be the aroma of Christ among those who are “being saved” or to be the aroma of Christ among those who are “perishing?” Why?

b. Share a time recently when the Holy Spirit moved you to be the aroma of Christ.

Read Titus 3:5; 2 Peter 1:4; Colossians 1:27 and I Corinthians 6:19-20

In the Bible, light is a metaphor of holiness and righteousness. Light is also a metaphor for the overpowering presence of God’s life within us. In Matthew 5:14 Jesus declares that “you are the light of the world.” In order to be the lighthouse in a dark world, the Holy Spirit has to take up residence in our heart. After reading the three scriptures above, spend some time answering the questions below.

a. In your own words, what is the “washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit?”

b. In your own words, how have you become a “partaker in the divine nature of God?”

c. Colossians 1:27 says that as a true believer you can rest assured that you ARE the light of the world and you DO have “Christ in you.” Are there times when the enemy tries to lie to you about your

true identity in Christ?

d. When this happens, what do you do?

Let's Live It Out Together:

Take time to pray for anyone in your group who is struggling with their identity in Christ at this time.