

## Be Strong #32

### Light of the World

"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 by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."  
Ephesians 5:8-14

“For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, "made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”  
2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Something is stirring in my heart as a result of what God is doing in Israel today. He is doing what He said He would do in the last days---restoring the nation and bringing the Jewish people back to the homeland. The promised land of milk and honey is budding and flourishing again against all odds. He said it would, and it is.

As I returned from Israel this summer, after a life-changing trip with our young people, I began to consider what God is doing there and wondered about our own nation and what God has in mind for us. Are we on a downward spiral that is irreversible? Our nation is in a moral and spiritual decline. Our president said recently that we are no longer a Judeo-Christian Nation and I somehow think we as a nation believe him! But wait! Does God look at us and see us as he did the Israelites after Solomon's fall---judgment-exile-inevitable-irrevocable,? There were a couple of revivals along the way in the latter part of Old Testament history, but Jeremiah prophesied and said, “70 years of captivity,” and nothing would change that. Are we to sit back, fold our hands and hold our families close as we go down with the ship? Does God say anything in scripture about our nation? Is this our destiny?

Mike Evans was quoted in a book I read recently. He said, "Most can remember the classic painting of Jesus standing outside a door waiting to be allowed entry. The poignant betrayal of Christ on the outside wanting to fellowship with His creation has never been more powerful than it is today. Prayer has been excised from schools, suits have been filed to remove "under God" from the pledge of allegiance, displays of the ten commandments have been removed from public buildings, and the motto "in God we trust" is in danger of extinction. Teachers have been forbidden even to carry a personal bible in view of students, Christian literature has been removed from library shelves, religious Christmas carols have been banned from school programs, and spring break has replaced Easter vacation. The word of God says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." It also says that, "when the foundations are being destroyed what can the righteous do" Psalm 11:3. [Check out this senator's response to President Obama's statement about us not being a Judeo-Christian nation anymore.](#)

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpQOCvthw-o>)

If, as Jesus declared, we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, why is our nation in a death spiral morally and spiritually? Have we ceased to preserve? Have we spent more time under a bowl, preventing others from seeing our good works and glorifying our father in heaven? Has the light of Christ become a flicker because of our compromise with the world? Oh, it's not because we are doing bad things! We're not! We have just left our first love.

**Are we as parents** more concerned about our kids climbing the social ladder than seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness?

**Are we more focused** on our children making the grade then loving God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength?

**Are we more protective** of our children's feelings than the lost friends they sit in class with everyday?

**Are we more thrilled** with our kids playing varsity than defeating habitual sin in his or her life?

Jesus said, "a city on a hill cannot be hidden." When He spoke those words, on the side of the mountain overlooking the Sea of Galilee, He was referencing a nearby city. Most likely Tiberius. That evening, those who heard him speak these words would probably be reminded of that when they looked over and saw the lights of the city. The reason the city lights the sky is because of the individual family lamps shining through their windows. If God is going to use us to turn the tide and recapture our nation, He will do it one family at a time as you and your children shine.

You might be thinking, "Jerome, come on man, give us a break! We're doing the best we can." I know you are, but let's take stock of our lives and lay them before Jesus and asked Him about His plan for us. Let's be reminded of our Christian heritage as a nation.

Let's open our eyes to the compromise all around us.

Let's stop the erosion on our block. Let's turn back the enemies advance.

Let's take back our Sabbath for our families and for the Lord.

Let's say "no" to the homosexual agenda.

Let's overturn the abortion laws in our land.

Let's stop allowing the media in our nation from determining what a "normal family" is.

Let's rebut Wired Magazine for telling every man to have porn on his office computer.

Let's raise our lamps and turn up the heat.

Let's do what He does best---**shine**. And dad, you need to take the lead here, okay?

Will you stand with us for the sake of our nation and the salvation of those who are here? Will you stand on the foundation of Christ for the sake of your children and your children's children? In some ways today, I am like Moses standing on top of Mount Nebo, looking over into a place I may never go. I'm looking into the future that I will not stand in, but my children will, my grandson will, the Lord willing. You know, maybe God's plan is for our nation to crumble as a result of our turning our backs on Him, but what if He is simply waiting for me to say, "enough" and for you to say, "enough, enough from the prince of this world, you can't have my kids, you can't have my grandson, you can't have our young people and you're not going to destroy my family."

Well, here are a few thoughts to ponder today. Remember! You are the parent. When the world drives down your street is there a light coming from your window? Let it shine!

In His Joy

Jerome

Ephesians 2:10