

## Your Responsibilities As A Child Of God

- I. We must recognize that though we are in the world, we are not citizens of this world. We are considered by God as children of God and citizens of heaven.

**(NKJV) Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

- A. How did we become children of God?

**(NKJV) Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

**(NKJV) Jn 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**

**(NKJV) Jn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**(NKJV) 2 Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

- A. **Ambush Prayer** for the children of God

**(NKJV) Jas 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.**

1. Creating an atmosphere of prayer. Exercising your prayer muscles.
  - a. Ask the Lord and see your angels blessing the person.
  - b. Healing them
  - c. You don't have to tell them
2. Don't wait till you feel like praying. Pray without ceasing! For one another!
3. Prayer is like any other work; we may not feel like working, but once we have been at it for a bit, we begin to feel like working.

- II. As children of God, we have a responsibility to God in this world. We are to live as his children according to the word he has given us. He tells us!
- (NKJV) Mt 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**
- A. It is time for us of the church to let our light shine! We must realize who we are! We are children of God
1. God has an expectation of us as his children! You cannot continue to please him without recognizing the requirement of God to let other people know of the light within you.. What is this light?
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**
- B. Jesus gave his life for the people of this world. Then, he told us to do works so that people in the world would glorify his name!
1. What works have you done for Christ lately?
- a. Are you just living for yourself?
- b. This past week, that all you do was go to work? Did you share Christ with anyone? God has an expectation of you!
- c. Why should you receive the benefits of a child of God when by your actions, or your inactivity the world cannot see your light?
2. There is no excuse for your inactivity
- C. When you accepted Christ, you were endowed with the power to not only make your life better but to improve the quality of life of your family, church and community.

**WHEN YOU ACCEPTED CHRIST, YOU WERE ENDUED WITH POWER TO NOT ONLY MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER, BUT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF YOUR FAMILY, CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

**(NKJV) Ac 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**”**

1. Responsibility to family, church, community by you but to the world is a call to the church itself.
- a. The world is a corporate responsibility but you must do your part to make that effort happen.

- b. You have the responsibility to support your church to reach the world.
- 2. If Christ is in you, he expects you to let him be seen in you by the world.
  - a. Not you! Not your personality, not your attitude, not your feelings, not what you think but what God has said.
  - b. You are his witnesses! He expects you to let him be seen by a dying world!
  - c. Your life has been purchased by the price of the death of Christ on the cross

- D. If you are not witnessing of the truth that is in you? If your lifestyle does not reveal Christ? What does God say about you?

**Mt 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**

**(NKJV) Jn 15:1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**

**YOU MUST BECOME A WITNESS FOR CHRIST BY THE WORKS YOU DO, NOT JUST THE TALK OF YOUR MOUTH!**

- 1. Get this!

- E. We have got to start realizing we must distinguish ourselves from the children of the world if we expect to be treated differently by God.

**(NKJV) Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that **they may see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- 1. What are you doing, what works are you doing for Christ that is different from the people of the world?
  - a. are you just like everybody else? Going to church? Yet not showing any evidence of Christ within you?
  - b. Jesus makes it clear we must let our light shine!

- B. He said **Mt 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth;** salt does three things

- 1. salt preserves – it keeps meat from spoiling or decaying
  - a. We are to keep the earth from decaying. We preserve the world from being destroyed. When we get taken out of the world the judgment comes.

- (1) Remember, if there had been just 10 righteous men in Sodom and Gomorrah it would have been saved.
    - (2) When Lot was removed, the city was destroyed.
  - b. We have a responsibility to stand for truth. We must preserve the truth. Our prayers can protect others! We cannot sit idly by when we see things going wrong and say it's up to somebody else to fix it.
  - c. We are to preserve! We are to preserve righteousness wherever it exists.
- 2. Salt seasons – salt it makes things better
  - a. Think of food without salt
  - b. See how Joseph made those around him better
  - c. Everything we are involved with should get better! Why?
    - (1) What the Psalms 1:3 say? Whatever he does prospers!
- 3. Salt is distinctive – there ain't nothing else like it!
  - a. There is no one else like you having the power of God to do a specific thing in the earth.
  - b. If you do not share what gift God has given you the world will be lacking what God created you for in this generation.
  - c. You are distinctive!
- 4. Salt spreads – a little salt changes the taste of everything it touches.
  - a. If you are involved in something you always make it better!
- 5. Salt is pure – the Jews use it in their sacrifices
  - a. we should be pure in our living. Not contaminated with rubbish or dirt.
  - b. We should be in all things
    - (1) Honest
    - (2) Fair
    - (3) Just
    - (4) we should not make decisions based upon favoritism
  - c. we should be pure in
    - (1) speech
    - (2) thought
    - (3) our conduct
  - d. we should help those around us remain pure
    - (1) salt is used to keep impurities out of the water at home
    - (2) people should have respect not to say, do or be certain ways around us
  - e. salt is not sugar.
    - (1) Don't sugarcoat the word of God
    - (2) Tell the word of God like it is

- C. **but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**
- D. What is it that makes us salty to the world? There is only one thing that preserves us. The Holy Spirit!  
**(NKJV) Jn 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**

**(NKJV) 1 Co 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

1. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. The very same spirit that was given for us to be witnesses.
  2. The power of God dwells in us for us to let our lights shine. For us to be the salt of the earth.
  3. if we are not doing what Christ told us to do the power will not be manifest in us.
- E. Without the spirit, nothing is of value, and nothing else can replace it.
1. The body dies
  2. a witness is without value
    - a. the testimony does not reach the heart of the listeners
  3. a sermon is dead; it accomplishes nothing
  4. a church is not a church without the spirit of God
  5. we have been given the spirit to be bold in our witnessing
  6. if we are not witnessing, what needs do we have of the power of God.
    - a. the power of God
      - (1) to heal us
      - (2) to deliver us from our own afflictions
      - (3) to preserve us
      - (4) if we have lost our savor, what good are we to God or anyone?
    - b. we need to learn to get up off our butts of excuses and start witnessing for the glory of God!
- F. if we are not affecting others around us in a way that shows glory to God we have lost our saltiness
1. we are in danger of offending God and losing his power to help make our lives better.

**(NKJV) Jn 15:6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**

- G. Is salt expensive? Salt is cheap. We should therefore be humble in our communication with others but yet bold and our witnessing about Christ.

**II. 14 “You are the light of the world.**

**WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. EACH ONE OF US WILL SHINE ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WE ALLOW TO FLOW THROUGH US.**

- A. How did we become this?
1. When you became a new creation his light, his Holy Spirit, became one with your spirit.
  2. **John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

**(NKJV) Ac 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”**

- B. Think of this:

**THE EARTH AND ALL WITHIN IT WILL DIE WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF THE **SUN**  
THE EARTH AND ALL WITHIN IT WILL DIE WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF THE **SON****

**THE **SUN** IS THE LIFE GIVER. THE **SON** IS THE LIFE GIVER  
THE **SUN** IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. THE **SON** IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**WHEN DOES THE LIGHT OF THE **SUN** SHINE? IT ALWAYS SHINES!  
WHEN SHOULD THE LIGHT OF THE **SON** SHINE FROM WITHIN US?  
IT SHOULD ALWAYS SHINE!**

1. How is the light of the son seen in the earth? It is seen through the sons of God!  
**John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**
  2. Because we have the light, we are the only ones able to show the world the life and the way of salvation.
- C. Jesus said  
**(NKJV) Jn 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”**  
**(NKJV) Jn 12:46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.**
1. When Jesus died darkness covered the earth. **Luke 23:44**
- D. When we believe, we are given the light. The spirit of God whom Christ sent in his place.

- E. we are not the light, but a reflection of the light. His light shines from within us. In our
  - 1. actions
  - 2. way of living
  - 3. our speech
  - 4. Jesus changes us from within
- F. light is
  - 1. clear and pure
  - 2. it penetrates the darkness
  - 3. it enlightens
  - 4. it reveals
  - 5. it guides
  - 6. notice the Christ said we are the light of the world not just like in the church
  - 7. light should shine so the blind men may see!
- G. In a world of darkness, a light cannot be hidden.
- III. Christ tells us that if we have the Holy Spirit our light should be seen as clearly as a city on the hill.
- IV. **A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.**
  - A. It is time you let your light shine
  - B. it is time you tell people about Christ.
  - C. God spirit is not to be hid.
  - D. Just as car lights show the way in the night, we should lead the way for others to salvation.
  - E. I like can also be a warning. We should let the world know of the impending judgment.
  - F. our light must be clear
- V. **16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**
  - A. What will bring glory to God? Your good works!
  - B. God intends for you to do good works with his spirit as your guide.
    - 1. Some people only want to be seen having the spirit but not willing to do the works.
      - a. They will show up in church and sit on a pew but when asked to do something they leave it up to others
        - (1) Christ said your good works.
      - b. some people can talk a lot of talk but Christ said your good works not your talk.
    - 2. live your life so that God will get the glory!
      - a. it is not about you getting paid
      - b. getting a pat on the back
      - c. recognition of others
      - d. God should receive the glory!

VI. Now as true children of God, **16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**