

Light and Salt

I recently read a spiritual reflection of the Gospel where Jesus relays to his disciples that they are salt and light. A key point in the reflection was that *"identity and mission cannot be separated"*. This is one of the most important spiritual concepts that I have embraced. If we do not understand who we really are and how important we are personally to God, then we will never know if we are living out our purpose in life as he desires.

Before I came to know my ultimate purpose in life, I only identified myself by the worldly roles that I fulfilled: son, brother, friend, husband, father, Air Force officer, engineer, etc. Our lives are dynamic. The need for and emphasis on our worldly roles changes over time. But what does not change is our identity as beloved child and faithful servant of God. When I came to realize the importance and permanence of these roles, the personal mission that God desires of me came across with great clarity and constancy. He has put in my heart a personal mission to unify people and bring them a sense of peace. This mission has become my light, illuminating God's ultimate purpose for me. This mission has become the salt of my life, enhancing it with lasting flavor and zest.

My personal mission, my light, is but a narrow wavelength of the full spectrum of God's brilliant light. We are each called to carry our individual lights together in community so that the combination of all our lights becomes the full continuum of God's luminous love. As we unite our efforts, we become that City on a Hill whose glowing, attracting light gathers all from the darkness. Our combined personal callings then become the total of God's continuing efforts in this world gathering his people to himself.

Peace Be With You,

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