**HEART TO HEART**/A word of hope and encouragement by Mennie Morrison

**FEBRUARY 2021**

**BE SALT AND LIGHT (PART I)**

Greetings to you in this 2nd month of 2021. I trust that you and your family are well and standing on the Great Promises of God. Before we get started, let me say Happy Valentine’s Day to everyone and as you are expressing Love to those in your life, I pray that you will feel and experience the Love of God as never before.

This month, I’ve felt led to share the **Word of Exhortation** the Holy Spirit spoke to me at end of December 2020 as we entered 2021. For those of you that know me and perhaps familiar with our ministry are aware that I seek the Lord at the end of the year for the upcoming year to see if He has a specific Word. For many years now, Holy Spirit has ministered to me a powerful Word of Exhortation and I want to share it with you.

**Word of Exhortation from Holy Spirit for 2021 and Beyond**

**Given on December 31, 2021 right before we entered into a brand New Year.**

**IT’S TIME TO BE SALT AND LIGHT**

As a New Year (**2021**) is on the horizon, I am sounding a Clarion Call to my people to be the **Salt of the Earth and Light** of the World (**Matthew 5:13-16**).

All creation is waiting on my Body to be who I’ve called you to Be. The Strong, Courageous army of men, women, boys and girls changing a society and cultural with my Word (The Gospel) and my Spirit.

So many in my Body have failed to be who I created and ordained you to be; a Body without spot, wrinkle or blemish (**Ephesians 5:27**).

Now is the time like never before for you to season (affect, enhance) a dry, dull and thirsty world. Now is the time for you to dispel the darkness by being my **Light** in this dark and gloomy world.

Where there is gross darkness, my Great **Light** in you should Shine (**Isaiah 60:2**). I want my glorious **Light** to arise out of You bringing the message of Salvation (which includes, Hope, Healing, Restoration, Provision and so much more).

I Long for my People to Know me in a real, up close and personal way. Then, they are able to make me Known to the World by being the **SALT and LIGHT.**

There has been so much strife, turmoil and division among my people and it Breaks my heart. But, now it’s time to make a decision of whose side are you on. If the Lord’s side then Be the **Salt and Light**.

There are so many in the valley of decision (**Joel 3:14**). **Decide this day** whom you will serve (**Deuteronomy 30:19** and **Joshua 24:15**). **It is Decision Time**, You must choose, no more hanging in the balance tipping to the left or right. **Choose your side and Choose Right**; then I will help you to be that **Salt** (which preserves and enhances) and the **Light** (which illuminates darkness and pushes it back). Where **Light** is, darkness can’t **Be**!

My Call to you my daughter, my son and all my Body on this **31st day of December 2020**, Be The **Salt** and **Light**. The Time is Now, the World needs You! Will you answer my **Clarion** call, the call of my Heart Today?

Keeping this Word that we just read in mind, I want us to look at the scriptures that are presented here as **we answer the call of God to Be the Salt and Light**. Our foundation scripture is **Matthew 5:13-16**. However, let’s look at the preceding verses to bring **13-16** in context. Verses **1-12** is the famous scriptures referred to as the (**Be Attitudes**) of Jesus teaching his disciples. These verses are defined as eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

To help us to better understand what Jesus has commissioned us to be: **Salt and Light**, let’s look at a few definitions of these two words from Dictionary.com. **Salt-** Widely used to season, preserve, cure, enhance and flavor. For the word **Light-** Something that makes visible or affords illumination. Having illumination, bright, well lighted.

As we reflect back on what the Holy Spirit spoke, we should be people of **Salt’** that which enhances, seasons and affect the world. As the **Light**, we should make Jesus visible to a dark and dying world and be people of God illuminating the Kingdom of darkness. Now, let read our foundation scripture **Matthew 5:13-16** from both the **Message** and **Passion** Translations: **Message**: **13***“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.* ***14-16****“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

Now, let’s read it from the **Passion** Translation: ***13****“Your lives are like salt among the people. But if you, like salt, become bland, how can your ‘saltiness’ be restored? Flavorless salt is good for nothing and will be thrown out and trampled on by others.* ***14****“Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop. 15**And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it’s placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light.* ***16****So don’t hide your light!  Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.”*

I love the way the Message version of our foundation scripture starts; we are here on the earth to be **salt**-seasoning that brings out the God flavors of the earth. We are the ones that should bring flavor, enhancement and life (the life of God) to a people in this world that are lost and need eternal salvation. These verses in the Message goes on to say: God is not a secret to be kept, we need to Go Public. Come out of the closet (as some would say regarding their sexual identity). We as the Body of Christ need to come out of our beautiful comfortable churches and **Be** the **Salt**. The last part of these verses says: God has put us on a hilltop (light stand) and requires us to **SHINE**! The world is dark and need **God’s Light** and the only way the world will see the **Light** is through us as being the **light** giving source of God.

The Passion translation of these same verses in **Matthew 5** says that the **Light** believers carry should cause our lives to **light** up the world. This translation admonishes us not to hide our **light**, but let it shine brightly before those in darkness so that they can see Christ and be reconciled to God.

One last scripture before closing this part of our teaching; we will read **Ephesians** **5:26-27** from the **King James Version** then **The** **Passion**. (**KJV**) **26***That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,* ***27****That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

**The Passion Translation** says: ***26****to make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of the pure water of the Word of God.****27****All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant] beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw.*

Jesus loves His Church (His Body, His People) so much that His desire is for us to be sanctified and cleansed by the washing of the water of His Word. That He can present us to the Father a glorified Church (a mature church). A church (a people) for His pleasure that will bring Him Praise. Without spot, wrinkle or blemish. A glorious, radiant, beautiful and holy people unto Him.

Jesus paid an ultimate price for us to **SALT AND LIGHT**. Let us rise up as never before and be all that God has called us to be. Next month, we will continue our teaching with part II. As always, let me remind you that God has **Blessed You to Be A Blessing!**