

"Are You an Influencer?"

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Definitions:

Influence: manipulate, persuade, sway, induce, talk into, win over; to cause an effect on something; the ability to influence the course of events, based upon one's relationship with powerful people; clout; connections' pull.

Influencer: one with power to pressure, to sway, have authority, have control; to inspire, to stimulate. **Somebody who can sway another;** somebody or something able to affect the course of events or somebody's thinking or action.

Introduction: ENTER—JESUS!

Luke 1:31: *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name, JESUS.*



This is the first time the name of **JESUS** is recorded. The angel talked to Mary, the chosen one, and told her the future event that would forever change everything on earth! **Jesus**—what an influence—what an influencer!

Jesus was the perfect example of—who, what, where, when, how—of being an influencer!

Question: Am I an influencer?

No question about it — YES! We are ALL influencers.

Having **read** the definitions, **think** about influence/influencers; people and things that have **swayed** you. Parents, grandparents, family members, friends, ministers, teachers, peers, advisors, statistics, career, positions, money, looks, talents, the list could go on. We are a "product" of our environment.

With that in mind, look in —

Matthew 5:13—16. Read these scriptures in three different versions of the Bible.

King James Version	Contemporary English Version	The Living Bible Version
13) Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour , wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.	13) You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on. 14) You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden. 15) and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. 16) Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.	13) You are the world's seasoning , to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavor , what will happen to the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14) You are the world's light —a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. 15 & 16) Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father .

KEY WORDS in the Scriptures:

SALT—small white tangy-tasting crystals consisting largely of sodium chloride.

Use: food seasoning and preservative.

— something that adds zest, piquancy, liveliness, or vigor.

— figuratively = prudence [carefulness], in one's best interest to be careful with one's resources.

We ARE suppose to be “like” salt, the basic mineral of this world, the “beneficial mineral” that affects everyone.

Most people eat too much salt! We are told in the Bible to be “the salt of the earth.” Salt is a mineral; let me share some “tidbits” with you about salt.

- ❖ Over 14,000 uses have been found for salt.
- ❖ It is used in adhesives, batteries, explosives, meats, and metals.
- ❖ Before the days of refrigeration, people used it to cure meats, thus preventing spoilage.
- ❖ We spent the first nine months of our lives, forming in a sac of saline solution in our mother’s womb.
- ❖ The combined oceans contain about 4½ million cubic miles of salt—enough to cover the entire United States to a depth of one mile.

When you *shake out some salt*, remember—it demands your attention. We are dependent on this humble compound.

SAVOUR—to become insipid (lacking zest), lacking flavor. The root word goes deeper—dull or stupid (as if *shut up*), heedless, blockhead, absurd, foolish. We are to be careful NOT to lose our savour (flavor/taste) for God; *our zest for God*, that distinguishes us as representatives of Christ Jesus, His Son!

LIGHT—to shine; to make manifest; luminousness; fire, light. Light is so important to us! If we were blindfolded and placed in a dark room, fear of the unknown could paralyze us. Is something in here to harm me; are there bugs, rodents; will I fall bumping into something; is there someone else in here?

All these questions come to us—why—because of darkness; but a crack in the wall, floor, window or a match, candle, flashlight, or simply flipping the light switch, can help us to find our way out of a room in which the darkness held us captive. We have to be a light source for this world, giving hope and direction to the lost.

GLORIFY (Praise)—full of glory, honor, magnify. *All honor, glory, and praise is to be transferred to our Father!*

HOW ARE YOU AN INFLUENCER?

Christian	/	Sinner
Peacemaker	/	Troublemaker
Lover	/	Hater
Problem Solver	/	Problem Maker
Encourager	/	Discourager
Builder	/	Demolisher
_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____

(You fill in the blanks.)

If you are reading this Bible study, I am influencing you, yet I may never meet you in this life! We NEVER know who is watching us, listening to us, reading something we wrote, someone quoting something we said. We are influencers! We must represent our heavenly Father in a manner “worthy” of Him!

SUMMARY:

YOU are the **salt**; don’t lose your influence. You are the **light**; let your light shine where it can be seen. You have to “make” your **light shine**; others need to see your good works. And the most important thing, others will see “your” good works and will **praise/glorify** your Father in heaven! We always need to point people to Jesus! **WHO are YOU influencing for your heavenly FATHER?**

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I ask You to take the context of this Bible Study and use it for Your glory. I pray people would be influenced in a way they would want to "season" their "world" with "salt and light." Create an overwhelming thirst in everyone they come in contact with and that they will only be satisfied in surrendering their life fully to You. Help us ALL to be influencers for YOU! May Your name be glorified and Your kingdom increased. Amen.