

I believe that the love of money is an area in which we can easily have the salt lose its savor. Now in both of these there is a proper place for it. There is a proper place for us to live normal lives with every feature of our personality. And there is a place for us to think about money and to plan financially so as to have money to take care of us in later days. All this has a proper place in our lives. But it is very easy for the one who desires to serve the Lord to be led astray in either of these to where this which should be entirely proper can become a snare and a delusion and can cause the salt to lose its saltiness altogether.

Then there is the third thing mentioned which is called "the pride of life" in the KJV, and I don't know whether the translators of the NIV thought that that brief statement was not quite clear enough so they made it "the boasting of what he has and does." Maybe that is a clearer idea. But here again like in the other two, there is a proper place for it. There is many a man who by not giving it its proper place fails to accomplish what he should. There is ~~any~~ many a man who has an opportunity to step out and serve the Lord and he feels he is not good enough. He feels that if he speaks out people will laugh at him and people will not appreciate the words he is giving out. He loses opportunities to serve God effectively because of thinking of himself less than he should and underestimating his abilities.

God has given everyone of us gifts--gifts to be used for his service. God wants us to stand on our two feet and present the Word of God and not be afraid of the face of any man. The lack of proper appraisal of your own ability, of your position as a representative of God, as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, can prevent you from having anything like the effectiveness that you should have. So it is very very important that we do not be led to think that we should simply become nothing as far as stepping out and doing something for God is concerned.

God wants us not to think more highly of ourselves than we should, but also not to think more lowly of ourselves than we should but to step out and let him use us for His glory. So in all three of these there is that which is proper and right and which is important that we have, but there is also tremendous danger in them, so much that God can speak of them as being that which is of this world and not of the Lord, and that which causes the salt to lose its saltiness.

I remember hearing the evangelist, R. A. Torrey, on more than one occasion tell of an experience he had. He said, I had been talking with a man one day, a man who was active in Christian work. This man said to me, you know, you and I are the two most effective Christian workers in America. He turned to the man and he said, Don't you say anything like that. Don't you even think it. If you get to where you think you are so important that in God's work as all that, God can just lay you on the shelf." Torrey said that within two years that man had disappeared so completely that people hardly knew who he was any more. God can simply lay you on the shelf if the salt loses its saltiness in these three ways or in any other way.

How important it is that we be like the dove. That we be pure; that we be separate from that which is harmful. But that we take these three things that God speaks of and that we have the proper attitude toward them, Not of