

Have Salt within Yourselves and
Live in Harmony with One Another
(Mark 9: 50)

What is the true meaning of these profound words of our Lord YAHSHUA? Let's look at the importance of salt to our physical body, to understand its spiritual application. Salt is a very important mineral; it helps in water retention, muscle contraction, digestion; together with the electrolytes it is important in the carrying out the electrical impulses, which control many functions of the body; the nerves need it to stimulate muscle contraction, keeping from cramping; it keeps calcium and other minerals in the bloodstream and stimulates the adrenal glands; salt plays a primary role in the process of digestion and absorption of food; it is a preservative; Salt has a wide range of benefits, too many to include here.

Salt is the antidote of putrefaction and decay. When sin entered the world nature- animal and plant suffered its consequences of putrefaction and decay; we became corrupted, with the tendency for degeneracy and spiritual decay, deserving eternal punishment. Society voided of salt lacks the moral goodness it should have to be compassionate. "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how will you restore it?" When the saltiness is gone from the life of a Christian, the excellence of spiritual virtue is lost; it is seen by the way he is governed by the flesh and incapable of following Christ, as someone once said, "We are not wicked, but worldly; not blamable, but not beautiful; not criminal, but not Christian; the salt has lost its savor". An unsalted Christian is spiritually a misrepresentation of YAHSHUA'S teachings. And like the Laodicea Church, which has lost its spiritual identity in Christ, being not cold, neither hot, he will be spewed out of His mouth! You are the salt of the earth, but If the salt have lost its taste (its strength, its quality), how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything any longer, but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men (Matt. 5:13). If we Christians have become insipid spiritually, the world will not accept the message we bring them, because our life style indicates no change in our behavior; we are like the world – spiritually tasteless and powerless.

Job asked this important question: Can that which has no taste to it be eaten without salt? Or is there any flavor in the white of an egg (Job 6:6)? It is salt that brings out the taste in food and as well as in the spiritual life of the believer. It is an amazing mineral! It is beneficial to the many functions of the body. Peter gives us an understanding concerning having salt in ourselves: He said, Finally, all should be of one and the same mind, loving as brethren, compassionate and courteous, never return evil for evil or insult for insult; but on the contrary blessing; for let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days, keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile; let him turn away from wickedness and shun it, and let him do right; let him search for peace and seek it eagerly (I Peter 3:8-11). The Apostle Paul also had much to say what it is to have salt in ourselves; he admonished us through the letter to the Ephesians, Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace to those who hear it (Ephesians 4: 29); and to the Colossians he wrote: Let your speech at all times be gracious, **seasoned with**

salt, to know how you ought to answer anyone (Col. 4: 6). The speech which is with grace unites and harmonizes lives together as an orchestra; like a chorus when the voices of different parts find space in between the lines to harmonize with each other, echoing a beautiful sound of unity. Where there is harmony, there is agreement, there is peace.

To have salt in ourselves is to live in harmony with all men. Paul said, If it is possible as much as lies in you, live peacefully with all men (Rom. 12:18). YAHSHUA said, You are the salt of the earth. Peace with others will have to start within us for the world to taste the love of God through us. The writer to the Hebrews also admonishes us to “Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). One way to “strive to live in peace” is to lose sight of self to see and meet the needs of others in forgiveness and compassion. The example of it is found in the words of Paul, who echoed the words of Proverbs 25:21,22. He said, But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head; do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:20-21). In the world’s mentality, feeding an enemy is taking sides with the enemy. But YAHSHUA while nailed on the cross by His enemies, He prayed, “Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do”.

Why is it so important for us to have salt in ourselves and be at peace one with another, as YAHSHUA commanded? Because the Covenant of peace is called the Covenant of salt. In the Old Testament, salt was a necessary ingredient for all sacrifices offered to YAHWEH. Covenants were confirmed by sacrificial meals, in which salt was used. As a preservative, salt symbolizes an enduring Covenant. We find this in Numbers 18:19: It is a Covenant of salt [that cannot be dissolved or violated] forever before the Lord for you and your posterity with you. King David was given his kingdom forever from YAHWEH by a Covenant of salt: Ought you not to know that the Lord, the God of Israel, gave over to David forever, even to him and to his sons by a Covenant of salt (II Chron. 13:5). His kingdom is preserved forever into the Messiah’s coming Kingdom. In the light of what we learned, the command from the Lord to have salt in ourselves and be at peace one with another, should be of greater significance and understanding to us, although we are not a generation that is aware of the importance of salt, since the medical profession has diminished its value through the possible negative side effects it has had on the body, due to Men’s abuse of it on all prepared food.

The Word of YAHWEH says, For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence; by means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape from the moral decay that is in the world because of covetousness, and become sharers of the divine nature, for this very reason, adding your diligence, employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue and in virtue [develop] knowledge and in knowledge self-control, and in self-control steadfastness and in steadfastness godliness and in godliness brotherly affection and in brotherly affection Christian love. For as these qualities are your and increasingly abound in you, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord YAHSHUA

Messiah (II Peter 1:4-8). To have salt in ourselves is to have experienced the cleansing power of YAHSHUA'S blood; to walk in obedience to His command by all His divine power bestowed upon us. Have salt in yourselves: love, forgive, walk in union with and conformity to Him; have the roots firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith; clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones, purified and holy and well-beloved, tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience; be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference against another readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also [forgive]. . .and let the peace from Christ rule in your hearts to which as one body you were also called. And be thankful; let the world [spoken by] Christ have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another (Col. 2,3). May the understanding of His Word bring us light on how to be salt of the earth!