

# Maranatha Mirror Short

## THAT STUFF



*“Do you really believe that stuff?”*

.... A fair question, considering the strange behavior and weird beliefs swirling inside the Christian world.

The in-your-face man who corners you with the “seven steps to salvation.”

The Rapture-bound lady who grabs your hand and leads you through the “sinner’s prayer.”

The well-dressed gentleman who opens his Bible and tells you who to vote for.

The “Spirit-filled” sister who insists that you sit in that chair while she frees you from your demons.

*“Do you really believe that stuff?”*

Then there’s the TV evangelist who promises prosperity and success in Jesus’ Name to those who send in their “seed money.”

And don’t forget those Christians who insist that the earth is flat “because the Bible says so.”

When people find out that we're following Jesus, they shake their heads and say.....

...*"Do you really believe that stuff?"*

Are they ridiculing us?

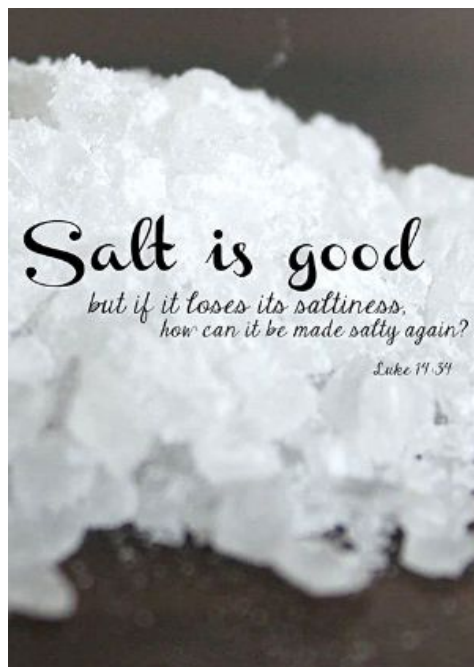
Are they persecuting us?

Or is there something about our Christianity that just doesn't *"taste right"*?

## Salt

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.*

*Matthew 5:13*



Does our witness taste like salt?

Does it taste like living bread?

Or is it flat, tasteless, rancid?

Are they tasting the living Lord?

Or is it just more saltless “stuff”?

## Listen to Him

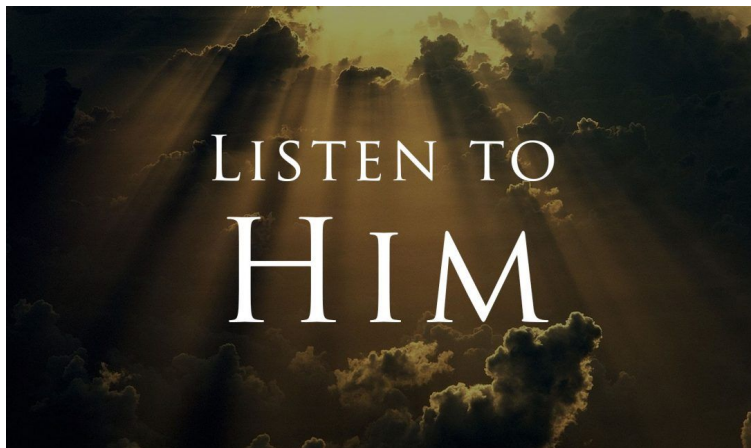
It may be “good stuff,” even “biblical stuff,” but the heavenly Father keeps telling us what he told Peter when he wanted to exalt Moses and Elijah, along with Jesus.

*Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah."*

*He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*

*Matthew 17:5*

“This is my Son. Listen to him....and to him alone”.



Whatever we add to Jesus is “stuff.”

It gets in the way.

It distorts our hearing.

It blurs our vision.

It destroys our witness to the world out there.

## Light

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.*

*Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.*



*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:16*

What’s the point of lighting a lamp and putting it under a bushel?

And what is the bushel but “stuff”?

We’ve wrapped ourselves in so much “stuff” that the world out there cannot “see our good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven.”



## **Signs and wonders**

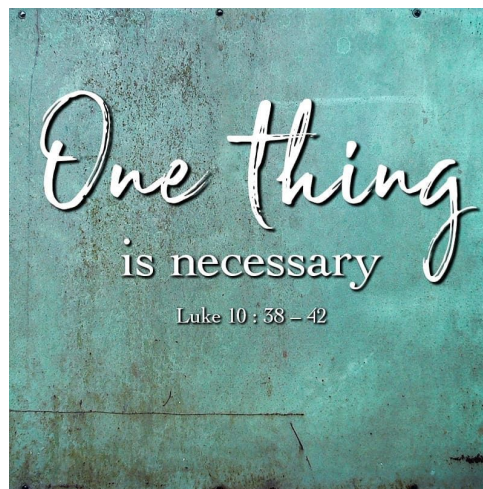
Even “signs and wonders” can become “stuff.” Jesus warns us that we can be so busy performing signs and wonders in his name that we drift from the path of simple obedience.

***"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.***

***On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'  
And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'"***

***Matthew 7:21-23***

One thing is needful: to do the will of our Father who is in heaven, to obey the simple commands of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus.



To walk in his steps.

To do things his way.

To abide in him.

To bear fruit that brings glory to God alone.

Everything else is just "stuff."

## Prayer

Jesus, Living Lord, Beloved of God, may we seek and find the one thing that is necessary... to do your will, walk in your steps and abide in you. Help us to unwrap ourselves from all “that stuff” that keeps us from you, whether worldly, vain or even religious. May our connection to you be so strong and genuine, that those questioning skeptics don’t find our lives to be insipid, spoiled, flavorless imitations. Instead of skepticism, may they be amazed at the life and vitality flowing from you to us. May they sense your presence and living power in us so strongly, that they know you are not “stuff” but real, alive, and eternal and that you are calling them to yourself.

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