

First Light

Influence

by Robert Hamm

Influence is the force by which we affect the life of another person! Every one of us has it! The power of our influence is staggering. Therefore, I want to be a good influence for Christ, his kingdom and in our community.

Ever said: "I don't have any influence" or "My influence doesn't go very far"? Our lives impact the lives of other people. Our mates, children, parents, brothers, sisters, etc. at work or play. Our lives affect those who watch us – up close or from afar. We do not know how many lives we influence, but we do know that we touch many lives.

Scripture uses four metaphors to describe the influence of Jesus' disciples. He said, "You are the salt of the earth" Matt 5:15. "You are the light of the world" Matt 5:14. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast" Matt 13:33. "You show that you are the letter from Christ" 2 Cor 3:3. Salt – Light – Yeast – Letter. How is our influence like salt? Salt preserves, purifies and brings out the flavor. Light illuminates, guides, warns, helps us see and gives us vision. Yeast works silently, slowly, consistently, effectively from within. A letter conveys the heartfelt expression of its author.

In our community, on the job, in our recreation, while shopping, at home, at school and in our local church, let us dedicate our lives to being that positive influence for our Lord Jesus Christ! We are salt – what are people tasting? We are light – what are others seeing? We are yeast – how am I moving others? We are a letter – what are people reading? "This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine!"