
IRONMEN

March 2017

A Message by Chris Treborn

Influence

Think about who was influential when you were growing up.

Perhaps an Artist, an Actor, or an Athlete.

We all had a musical influence within our generation.

My influence was 2PAC.

This was before I met Jesus.

I had a religious instinct but no moral code.

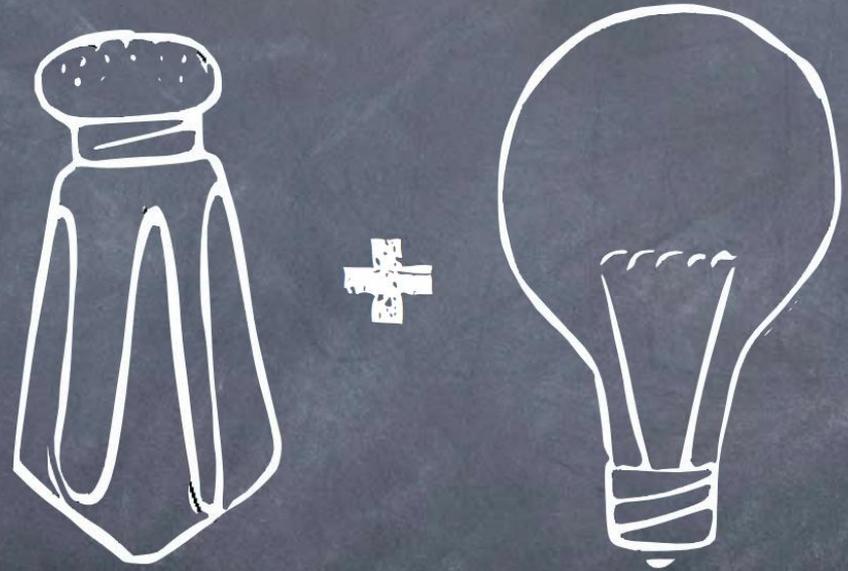


→ *But the weird thing is that the month after 2PAC died, my baby sister died of SIDS or sudden infant death syndrome. She was the daughter of my father and stepmother. She was almost 3 months old. This rocked my world even more. But I never knew Jesus. I only knew the GOD which 2PAC rapped about. This caused me to research this GOD and see why a baby would have to die so young. I questioned GOD and his justice and his authority. Somehow, my stepmom had this bible and she gave it to me. I am not sure why she did, but I began reading it. Not only that, but I would write songs and poems to help me cope with the death and seek a reason why and perhaps some justice to life. I ended up writing this long poem about my baby sister and I gave it to my step mom. It was a unbiblical poem about how and why my sister died. I sought a way to share empathy with my parents, and I searched for a way to explain to them that it was all for a reason. My father actually blamed GOD for taking her away. But it was like GOD used me and my poetry to give a mustard seed of influence and hope to my father and stepmother. My step mom read it and began crying. What did I say? What did I do? My lyrics had weight to them. They brought glory in a way I never knew.*

Salt and Light

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 trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

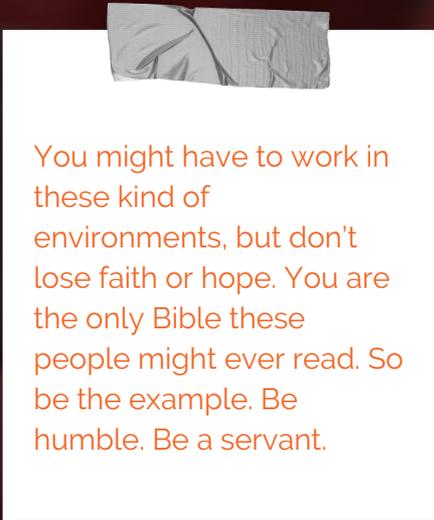


Matthew 5:13-16



**Whose Circle
Are **You** In?**

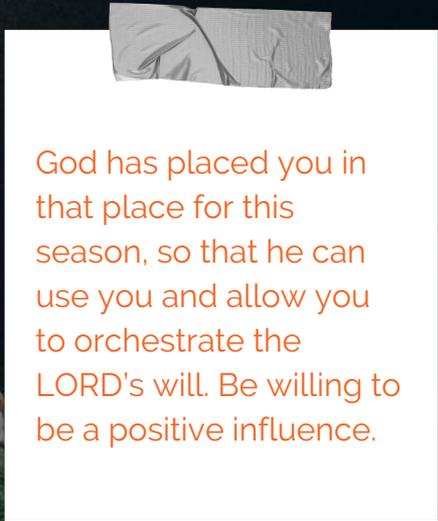
Have the will and desire to NOT follow them, but lead them to light and truth. Don't forget, we are called to be not only light, but salt. We need to give flavor to the world, we need to season the dead meat, and decaying flesh. Steak is dead meat, right? We can make it taste even better with some salt. But you won't be of much use if you lose your saltiness. If you lose your flavor, you can easily be influenced to just be the same as whatever you are surrounded by. If that is negativity, then you might be tainted, and corrupted. Preserve your flavor. So don't sugar coat anything and just be salty. Real talk.



You might have to work in these kind of environments, but don't lose faith or hope. You are the only Bible these people might ever read. So be the example. Be humble. Be a servant.

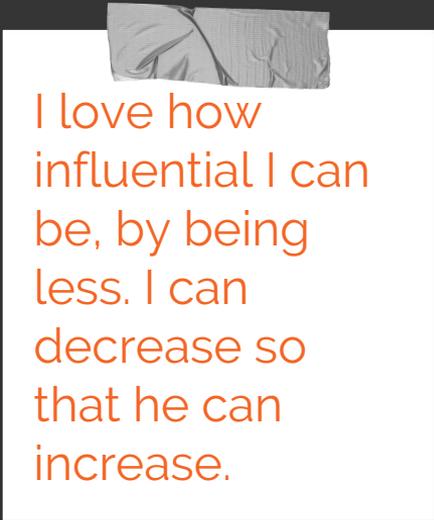
Jesus was perfect, yes!

But wasn't he also tempted? Didn't he hang with the drunkards, prostitutes, and tax collectors? If we hang with a bunch of saved grace filled people, we might become proud and boastful. Not only that, but we might start nitpicking one another and calling out one another when we barely miss a rule. Don't be legalistic. But stay sharp and encourage your brothers. Just like too much sugar can be a bad thing, don't JUST hang with the saints, be sure to find time to minister to the sinners. That doesn't always mean evangelizing, but live out loud. Shout life.



God has placed you in that place for this season, so that he can use you and allow you to orchestrate the LORD's will. Be willing to be a positive influence.

Now, the balance is hard between sinners and saints, between dark and light. It's hard to live the life of a gospel rapper. You have to know the culture, but you have to understand the bible. How can you apply the things you learn and not just sit in bible studies all day with your safe christian friends. I hate going out and getting in front of everyone, but GOD has called me to be his mouthpiece at times. I am not Moses, I am more like Aaron at times. I might not be Joshua, but I can be Caleb. I don't mind being the number two guy. I love serving the leader. I love helping in that capacity. And my music is a great catalyst for that kind of ministry and evangelism.



I love how influential I can be, by being less. I can decrease so that he can increase.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.



Who Gets Credit
When **You** Win?

We haven't always been winners. We used to be losers!

Maybe not in the world's eyes, but in the eternal kingdom we were lost. But now we are found and we have victory in Jesus. WE cannot brag about our salvation or what we have done. It has all been by the grace of GOD and according to his will on our lives. I mean, he let's make mistakes. But we can always learn and grow from those. We might be given in to our desires. Like a good Father, he lets us learn lessons if it helps us grow. We need to give glory to GOD for our outcome and circumstances, especially when we win and wish to be selfish and prideful.



We might be saving souls, but it's not a trophy or a checklist. It's not about how many people came to my concert, or how many CDs I sold. It was all about his glory alone.

→ *I would come in for my recording sessions and have some of the toughest battle rappers come up to me cussing like “hey bro, that bleep bleep you wrote was some crazy bleep that made me think. Like what if Adam didn’t eat the forbidden fruit after Eve?” I guess so. My music made them think. Or more like, they got high to the beat and got deep into thought over my biblical lyrics. Wow. I never thought this would happen. But GOD used my music as an influence over people I would never hang out with.*

Be a POSITIVE INFLUENCE

to your family, peers,
and your environment.

Don't be NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED

by your friends, co-workers,
or the culture.



SEND your **Questions & Comments** to

Christian@FellowshipSalem.com

