

“The Poor in Spirit” Part 2
Sunday, March 12, 2017
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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:1-3 “And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”

- Living by the beatitudes is the way to happiness.
- To be "poor in spirit" is to say, "I am nothing; I have nothing; I can do nothing; I stand in need of all things." The opposite of being self-sufficient and independent.
- To be “poor in spirit” is the foundation of humility.

"Jesus puts this beatitude first because humility is the foundation of all other graces, a basic element in becoming a Christian. Pride has no part in Christ’s kingdom, and until a person surrenders pride he cannot enter the kingdom.” (*Author unknown*)

The Importance of Being “Poor in spirit”

The parable of the Pharisee and the publican shows that to be justified one must be "poor in spirit." Luke 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14 “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself,

‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Receive the Word of God with Meekness.

James 1:21-22 “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Characteristics of those who are “Poor in spirit”

- They Live to Exalt Christ. John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”
- They Edify and Build Up other Christians. Romans 14:19
- The "poor in spirit" speak encouraging words to others, praise others, and thank God for those around them.
- They Look for ways to Exhibit Compassion.

Romans 14:19 “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

How to cultivate the Christ-like character of “Poor in spirit.”

1. Focus on the Lord.
2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
2. Deny Yourself.
Matthew 16:24-25 “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.’”
3. Living for Others
Philippians 2:3-4 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

The Kingdom of Heaven and our Position

James 2:5 “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

The Kingdom and our Privileges

Romans 8:14-17 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs

with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”