

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO IS POOR IN SPIRIT

Text: Matthew 5:1-3

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing foundational attitudes that are necessary to follow Him.
4. The first “beatitude” is to be poor in spirit...

I. The Context

- A. The Sermon on the Mount
- B. In relation to...
 1. The Bible - *Transition from OT to NT*
 2. The New Testament - *Foundation of the Gospel*
 3. The Book of Matthew - *Corrects Jewish error*
 4. The Sermon on the Mount - *Basis for all that follows*

II. The Characteristic

- A. “Poor”
 1. Literally, “destitute; a beggar.”
 - a. Two words for “poor.”
 - b. One indicates a person who does not own property and must work for his survival – *poverty-stricken*.
 - c. The other is entirely dependent upon the mercy of others.
 2. James 2:1-4; Luke 16:19-21; 14:12-14, 16-21; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 8:9
- B. “Poor in spirit”
 1. Humility
 - a. Pride prohibits submission.
 - b. Romans 12:3; James 4:6-10; 1 Peter 5:5; 3 John 9-10
 - c. The proud are self-satisfied, self-sufficient, self-centered, and self-seeking.
 - d. A heart filled with self has no room for God or one’s neighbor.
 2. Spiritually destitute
 - a. Completely dependent upon God...
 - b. Psalm 51; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; Luke 18:9-14
 - i. For direction (Jer. 10:23; Ac. 2:37; 8:30-31; 9:5-7).
 - ii. For deliverance (Rom. 7:24-25; Gal. 1:4; Col. 1:13).

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III. The Christian

- A. The person who is poor in spirit will become a Christian.
- B. He will understand his spiritual poverty (John 15:5).
- C. He will rid himself of pride and seek to learn and submit to the authority of God (James 4:6).
- D. Thus, he will obey the Gospel – whatever it commands.
- E. Yet humility must continue to characterize the one who lives the Christian life (cf. Matthew 26:35; Philippians 4:13).
- F. The Christian must continue to recognize his utter dependence upon God.
- G. This is also true of congregations (cf. Revelation 3:17).

Conclusion: *Are you poor in spirit?*