



## **BECOMING “BLESS-ABLE”**

### **Matthew 5:1-3**

- Jesus - *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:3)
- **“Blessed” is the Greek word “makarios” which means “to be very happy.”**
- **As He began His *Sermon On The Mount* Jesus gave us 8 principles that will help us to experience more of His supernatural “happiness” in our lives (Matthew 5:1-12).**
- **The Lord wants to bless every area of our lives and will do that when we become “bless-able.”**
- Jesus - *“Blessed are the poor in spirit . . .”* (Matthew 5:3)
- **Jesus wasn’t commending people for being economically, emotionally or physically poor.**
- *“God blesses those who recognize they are spiritually helpless.”* (Matthew 5:3 GW)
- *“God blesses those who depend only on Him.”* (Matthew 5:3 CEV)
- *“God blesses those who know they have great spiritual needs.”* (Matthew 5:3 NCV)
- *“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him . . .”* (Matthew 5:3 NLT)
- **To be “poor in spirit” means that we humbly depend on God instead of ourselves.**
- ***What steps can we take to “humbly depend on the Lord” so that we can experience God’s greatest blessings in our lives?***

### ***Becoming “Poor In Spirit” Requires:***

#### **DEPENDING ON GOD’S WISDOM**

- **This requires following God’s will instead of our will or someone else’s will.**
- *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”* (Proverbs 14:12)
- **Our decisions should be based on our faith, not our feelings.**
- *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, respect the Lord and turn your back on evil.”* (Proverbs 3:5-7)
- **We obtain “God’s wisdom” by praying to the Lord.**

- *"If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray and ask God, who gives generously to all . . . and it will be given to you."* (James 1:5)
- **We obtain "God's wisdom" by studying His Word.**
  - *"I gain understanding from Your precepts (O God); . . . Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* (Psalm 119:104-105)
  - **"God's wisdom and will" are found in "God's Word."**

***Becoming "Poor In Spirit" Requires:***

**DEPENDING ON GOD'S STRENGTH**

- **We need to come to the understanding that our strength is limited, while God's strength is infinite and inexhaustible.**
- *"Blessed are those who find strength in You (O Lord)."* (Psalm 84:5 GW)
- *"Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak."* (Isaiah 40:31)
- **When we get weak we can become overwhelmed or overcome by the trials and temptations of life, but God's strength will enable us to overcome them.**
- *"I walk in the strength of the Lord."* (Psalm 71:16 TLB)
- **We must depend on "God's wisdom" to know the right thing and on "God's power" to do the right thing.**
- *"My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart."* (Psalm 73:26)
- **Weakness in our lives can be a good thing if it causes us to depend on the Lord.**
- Paul - *"Three times I begged God to take away my weakness. Each time God said, 'My grace is all you need! My power works best in your weakness.' So I now gladly boast. I boast about how weak I am. Because when I'm weakest the power of Christ works in me and shows up through me. . . . When I am weak, then I am strong."* (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)
- **The weaker we are the more we depend upon God, and the more we depend upon the Lord the stronger we become.**

***Becoming "Poor In Spirit" Requires:***

**DEPENDING ON GOD'S TIMING**

- **Timing is crucial for every part of life.**
- **God often works through "seasons of waiting" in our lives.**
- *"While we're waiting, God is working."* (Rick Warren)
- *"I trust in You, O Lord. You are my God. My times are in Your hands."* (Psalm 31:14-15)
- **We are oftentimes in a hurry, but God is never in a hurry.**
- *"God has set the right time for everything."* (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
- The Lord - *"I am the Lord, and when it is time, I will make these things happen quickly."* (Isaiah 60:22)
- **God's delays are not His denials.**
- *"I trust the Lord to save me, and I will wait for Him to answer my prayer."* (Micah 7:7)

- **When we get ahead of the Lord we settle for “less than the best” in our lives.**
- *“The Lord is a faithful God; blessed on those who wait on His help.” (Isaiah 30:18)*

***Becoming “Poor In Spirit” Requires:***

**DEPENDING ON GOD’S DEFENSE**

- **There will always be people around us who misunderstand, criticize, judge and attack us in some way.**
- *“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12)*
- **We can expect to be misunderstood and criticized when we’re living for the Lord and serving the Lord.**
- **We need to allow the Lord to be our “defender” - and we’re most like Jesus when we do that.**
- *“When they hurled insults at Him (Jesus) He did not retaliate. When He suffered He made no threats back. Instead He entrusted Himself to God to set things right.” (1 Peter 2:23)*
- **The Lord wants us to be faithful and fearless Christians who endure the criticisms and rejection of others in godly ways.**
- *“God blesses and protects everyone who runs to Him.” (Psalm 2:12 GW)*
- *David - “I depend on God alone; I put my hope in Him. He alone protects and saves me; He is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God. He is my strong protector; He is my shelter!” (Psalm 62:5-7 GNT)*

***Becoming “Poor In Spirit” Requires:***

**DEPENDING ON GOD’S RESOURCES**

- **When our security is based on what we have financially or vocationally we are in a very insecure position in our lives.**
- *Paul - “This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*
- **God, not our job or other resources, is our source of supply and He is not limited by our ability or capacity.**
- *Jesus - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)*
- ***How am I doing with being “poor in spirit”?***
  - **\_\_\_ Depending on God’s Wisdom**
  - **\_\_\_ Depending on God’s Strength**
  - **\_\_\_ Depending on God’s Timing**
  - **\_\_\_ Depending on God’s Defense**
  - **\_\_\_ Depending on God’s Resources**
- *“Joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.” (Psalm 146:5)*

- The Lord will bless people who are “spiritually poor” who recognize their need for Him in their lives.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What do you think people were thinking as Jesus was teaching His *Sermon On The Mount* (Matthew 5-7)?
- What do you think that Jesus was referring to when He said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit”?
- What are some steps that a person can take to become “poor in spirit”?
- What are some of the benefits that we can acquire from the “Kingdom of Heaven”?