

# The BEATITUDES



**The Deepest Joy of the Soul**



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# The BEATITUDES

Pictures of Grace found in the Believer

Matthew 5:3-10 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek (*gentle*), for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.


<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## *The Attitude of Grace*

n Matthew 5:3-10, we find Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." Here Jesus defines what can be called the "**Attitudes of Grace.**" These are spiritual traits that when put into action, time and time again, become the defining characteristic of the believer. When put into action, through daily living, it then defines the person. In essence, they become who you are.


The Greek word makarios (μακάριος) is translated "*blessed*" and means "spiritual well-being and prosperity." This refers to the **DEEP JOY of the SOUL.** Those who experience or live the first aspect of the beatitudes, that is the poor, they that mourn, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure, the peacemakers, and the persecuted, will also experience the second aspect of the beatitudes, the Kingdom of Heaven. They will find comfort, inherit the earth and be filled. They will experience mercy and see God. They are called the sons of God and will inherit the **Kingdom of Heaven.**

The blessed have a deep joy inside them that transcends the trials of this world, for they have the Kingdom of God in them. They have, by way of their very nature, the ability to see things in a better light, to speak positive words when every word around them is negative and not of God. They have the ability to discern intentions that are less than honorable. With few words, they quiet the moment, they discern the hurting and downcast and offer them comfort in the knowledge of the Lord.

Lord help us all to know and experience that deep joy of the heart that comes only from you.



# *The Beatitudes*



**Blessed** are  
the poor in spirit

Those who *they that hunger*  
mourn *& thirst after righteousness*

the Meek



**the merciful**

the pure in heart



the  
peacemakers

they which are  
**persecuted** for



**RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
sake

*Rejoice!* & be exceedingly  
**GLAD**



for **GREAT** is  
your **reward** in *Heaven.*



Matthew 5







## “The Beatitudes”

Matthew 5:3-10

The Beatitudes describe the ideal disciple and his rewards, both present and future. The person whom Jesus describes in this passage has a different quality of character and lifestyle than those still "outside the kingdom."

It is here in Jesus' teaching of the beatitudes that we find the

## Deepest Joy of Our Soul



## Blessed are the “POOR IN SPIRIT”

Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

When you think of being blessed, it is with the idea that you have received something. You are truly better than before because you are/have been blessed.

We are not born “poor in spirit,” but we can become that way. Today, this term “poor in spirit” is said in another way. It is in reference to a person who has a “**Spirit of Humility**” or being **HUMBLE** as it comes from the heart of the individual.

Those who are blessed with this attribute of God are the ones who rate themselves a little lower than they really are. They let others go before them. They hardly ever speak up in their own defense, or wait to receive the compliments of men over a good thing or deed they have done. They do their good deed and then they are gone, back into the shadows, choosing the rewards of heaven over the praises of men.

Humility is not a weakness, but an attitude that allows for a modest or low view of one’s own importance in the big picture. It comes from knowing and understanding that life is not all about them.

Consider this, that “True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” Jesus says to this group of people, that theirs is the “**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**”



Father in heaven, we thank you for your goodness towards us. We thank you for your provisions and your hand that touches us. Lord we pray that you would bless us with your gift of Humility. Give us this day a heart that is humble before you.

“... on earth as it is in heaven.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 6:9-13 – The Lords Prayer



Blessed are

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## “THOSE WHO MOURN”

Matthew.5:4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”



The term “*mourn*” means “to experience deep grief.” In keeping with His theme of spiritual blessedness, Jesus seems to indicate that this mourning is due to grief over sin. The people who agree with God about the evil of their own hearts can attain an “enviable state of blessedness,” due to the comfort they receive from communion with the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Comforter (John 14:16,26;15:26;2 Corinthians 1:4).

The Spirit comforts those who are honest about their own sin and humble enough to ask for forgiveness and healing. Those who hide their sin or try to justify it before God, can never know the comfort that comes from a pure heart, as Jesus mentions it in Matthew 5:8.

A deep wounding of the heart can be so much more than just the loss of a loved one or our own sin before God. As believers, we do experience God’s consolation in times of our deepest loss, and our deepest hurt. Life is full of ways this second beatitude is fulfilled. There are other reasons that the Lord’s people mourn in Scripture, and His promise to comfort our mourning applies to every situation life throws at us.

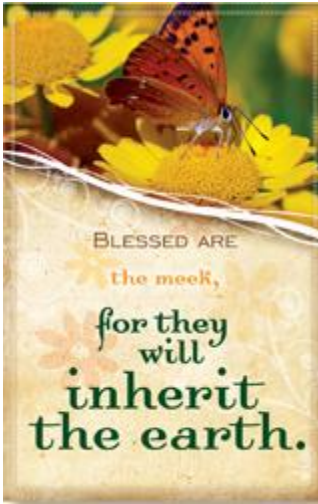
Though Jesus was a man of sorrows, He was able to endure suffering and pain because He knew that “out of the anguish of his soul” He would “see and be satisfied” (Isa. 53:11). We will never have to go through what Christ did, but we can look to God’s promise of comfort as a similar guarantee that we will one day see our mourning has not been in vain. This, in turn, will help us through whatever life brings our way.



Father in heaven, we thank you for who you are and for your comforting Spirit which you give to comfort us in our time of deepest sorry and hurt. You are truly our Father and your arms of comfort are wrapped around us. We love you ... and say thank you Father. Amen

Blessed are the  
“MEEK”  
(Gentle)

3



Matthew 5:5, “Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”

Meek, as it is used here, the third beatitude could also encompass the idea of gentleness and kindness. They are all markers of the spirit which is inside every believer. The Greek word translated “meek” is *praeis* and refers to mildness, gentleness of spirit, or humility. Meekness is humility towards God and towards others. It is having the *right* or the *power* to do something, but refraining for the benefit of someone else.

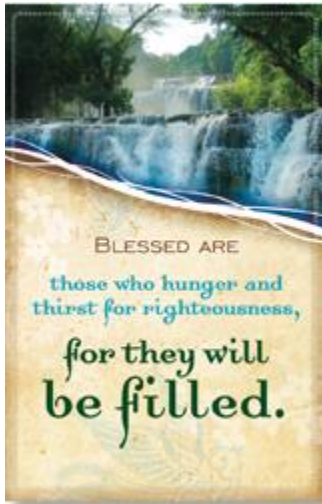
Paul urged meekness when he told us “to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. To be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:1–2) is to experience the meaning of Meekness and a humble spirit before the Lord.

Meekness models the humility of Jesus Christ. As Philippians 2:6–8 says, “[Jesus], being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!” Being “in the very nature God,” Jesus had the right to do whatever He wanted, but, for our sake, He submitted to the “death on a cross.” That is the ultimate in meekness.



Father in heaven, help us this day to be more like you and make in us a clean heart that is humbled before you. May your gentleness and meekness be found in us Lord. We want to be just like you.  
Amen

Blessed are those who



## “HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

“Blessed are they who do **HUNGER**” ... Hunger and thirst in this verse are expressive of strong desire. Nothing would better express the strong desire that we ought to feel to obtain righteousness than to hunger and thirst. When hunger and thirst become expressions what you long for and the lifestyle you seek after, then you shall be filled.

They shall be satisfied as a hungry man is when supplied with food, or a thirsty man when supplied with drink. Those who are perishing for want of righteousness; those who feel that they are lost sinners and strongly desire to be holy shall find their satisfaction in God’s abundant Grace. Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound. Never was there a desire to be holy that God was not willing to grant, and the gospel of Christ has made provisions to satisfy all who truly desire to be holy.

God will quench the thirst of those who desire him as a man walking in the Arizona desert with a dry canteen craves water. There's nothing casual about this kind of thirst. It's desperate. To thirst after righteousness means wanting to live according to God's will instead of the worlds. This is the only way to be happy and filled. If you thirst after righteousness, God will bless you.



My Father in heaven, in you do I put my trust. Help me Lord to seek your face and to hunger and thirst after everything that is You. I long for you, for your righteousness and your goodness that I may be all that you have made me to be, and called to serve you. How complete I would be to be filled after I hungered for you, to have my thirst quenched after only 1 hour in your presence, to be righteous if that is even possible. Only in you I find fulfillment of all my desires. Fill my cup Lord; I lift it up to you. Amen

## Blessed are the “MERCIFUL”



Matthew 5:7, “Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”

Blessed are the **MERCIFUL** - That is, those who are so affected by the sufferings of others that they are willing to aid in alleviating the suffering. This is given as the evidence of goodness and faithfulness. It is said that they who show mercy to others shall obtain it. For whoever will give even a cup of cold water to the least of men will in no wise lose his reward. The Lord will regard such acts of mercy as being done unto him and will reward accordingly.

Nowhere do we imitate God more than in showing mercy. In nothing else does God delight more in than in the exercise of mercy. To us, guilty sinners; to us, wretched and dying, he has shown his mercy by giving his Son to die for us; by expressing his willingness to pardon and save us; and by sending his Spirit to renew and sanctify our hearts.

Each day of our life, each hour, and each moment, we partake of his undeserved mercy. All the blessings we enjoy are proofs of his mercy. If we, then, show mercy to the poor, the wretched, and the guilty, it shows that we are like God. We have his spirit, and shall not lose our reward. And we have abundant opportunity to do it. Our world is full of guilt and woe, which we may help to relieve. Every day of our lives we have opportunity, by helping the poor and wretched, and by forgiving those who injure us, to show that we are like God.



My Father who is in heaven today, Lord may I be like you and today Lord have the grace of heart and the wisdom which flows from you to show someone Mercy as you have shown me. May I also learn from it and be merciful as you have been to me. Amen

Blessed are the

6

## “PURE IN HEART”



Matthew.5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”

The Greek word for “**PURE**” is *katharos*. It means to be “clean, blameless, and unstained from guilt.” Interestingly, the word can refer specifically to that which is purified by fire or by pruning. John the Baptist told people that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11). Malachi speaks of the Messiah as being like a “refiner’s fire” (Malachi 3:2). Jesus refers to believers as being the branches and to Himself as being the vine (John 15:1-17).

For a vine to produce fruit, it must be pruned. Those who are truly “pure,” are those who have been declared innocent because of the work of Jesus and who are being sanctified by His refining fire and His pruning.

Pure in **HEART**, the Greek word for “heart” is *kardeeah*. This can be applied to the physical heart. But it also refers to the spiritual center of life. It is where thoughts, desires, sense of purpose, will, understanding, and character reside. So, to be pure in heart means to be blameless in who we actually are.

Being pure in heart involves having a singleness of heart toward God. A pure heart has no hypocrisy, no guile, no hidden motives. The pure heart is marked by transparency and an uncompromising desire to please God in all things. It is more than an *external* purity of behavior; it is an *internal* purity of soul.

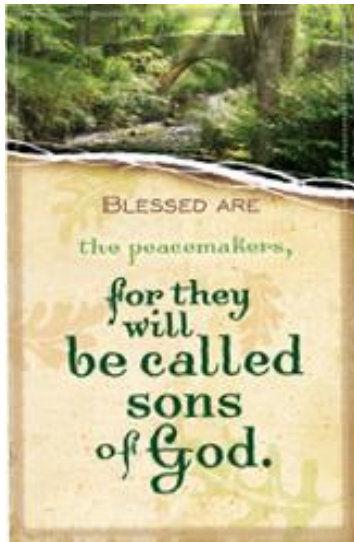
“Beloved...Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth for sincere brotherly love, love one another intensely from a pure heart. You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding word of God...” – 1 Peter 1:22-23



Father in heaven, give me a heart brimming with joy and peace, that remains firmly rooted in You, no matter my circumstances. Give me a heart that can stretch and expand to welcome and nurture the lonely, the hurting, and the weak.

Hide me Lord in the deepest recesses of your Heart. Touch my heart with your gifts and fruits of the Spirit, but most of all may I ask that you make in me a pure, Christ centered heart. Amen.





## Blessed are the “THE PEACEMAKERS”

Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

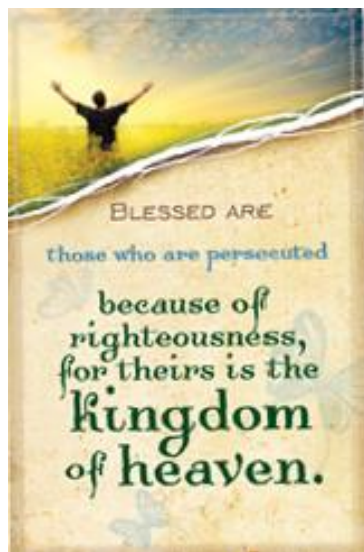
Jesus laid down His life to make peace between God and sinners, and when we can carry that message of peace to others, we are **PEACEMAKERS**. God delights in those who reconcile others to Himself, those who bring the gospel are “beautiful” (Isaiah 52:7). God “reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Those who bring reconciliation to broken relationships are carrying on the work of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Those who give of themselves as Jesus did in order that others may know God are called "blessed." There is no real peace apart from a relationship with God (Romans 5:1). What may masquerade as worldly peace is merely a temporary lull in chaos. True peace is found only in a restored relationship with God. “There is no peace, says the LORD, for the wicked” (Isaiah 48:22).

Only children of God can bring the peace of knowing God to others. A person must have a real relationship with God before he or she can help someone else know God. Those who witness for Christ, share their faith with their friends, and serve others in the name of Christ are the ambassadors for peace and are "peacemakers." Jesus calls them the "children of God."



Father in heaven, blessed is your name among all names for you are loving, kind and full of mercy to those who are your voice on earth and use it to be peacemakers. Help us Lord to show a better way through peace and reconciliation as you have taught us. May we always be your peacemakers. Amen.



## Blessed are those who are “PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Matthew 5:10, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Blessed are they which are **PERSECUTED** - To persecute means literally to pursue; follow after, as one does a fleeing enemy. Here it means to vex, or oppress one, on account of his religion. They persecute others who injure their names, reputation, property, or who endanger or take their life, on account of their religious opinions.

For **RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE** - Because they are righteous, they are the friends of God. We are not to seek persecution. We are not to provoke it by strange sentiments or conduct; by violating the laws of civil society, or by modes of speech that are unnecessarily offensive to others. But know this, that in the honest effort to be Christian, and to live the life of a Christian, others will persecute and revile us. We are to consider this as a blessing. The persecution is in its self the evidence that we are the children of God, and that he will defend us. "All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," 2 Timothy 3:12.

Jesus said, “If they persecute me, they will persecute you.”<sup>2</sup> This persecution has often been translated “tribulation,” “... you will have tribulation in this world ...”<sup>3</sup> Jesus is referring to personal persecution, trials, tribulation and not to be confused with Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week Tribulation.

**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven** – The persecution of the righteous is the evidence that they are Christians, and that they will forever be with the Lord in heaven.



Father in heaven, may you lift us up when we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, knowing that we have a greater reward waiting in heaven. Give us your strength, your peace, your graciousness in those times when we take a stand for you and for righteousness. Amen

<sup>2</sup> John 15:20-21

<sup>3</sup> John 16:33

## In Summary



Within the beatitudes, we not only find the new man in Christ, but also his “Newness of **CHARACTER**.” We are remade and for those who will seek, a “**Christ-like**” character. The grace of God has the power to change you on the inside, to touch you so deep with love that “who you are,” has become who God intended you to be. You have started down that road of conversion, until every detail of your life will, within time, begin to look and feel like Christ. Remember the blessedness of each of these beatitudes is from God’s perspective, not our own. It is a spiritual prosperity, not necessarily an earthly happiness.

I believe there will be a time, when Jesus will have completed the work He has started in you. As part of the Bride of Jesus, He will want to personally present the **NEW COMPLETED YOU** to His Father. The Father will look at you, knowing your heart and it’s longing to be like His Son. You just might hear Him say in a voice for all of the kingdom will hear ... “Well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew 25:23