

Daily Bible Verses

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11)

Poor in spirit.

Matthew 5:3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

The poor in spirit are all who realizing
they have no resources of their own to depend upon
put all their faith and trust in Christ alone for salvation.
The kingdom of heaven is the inheritance of all who love and obey His word.
We are blessed because out of our poverty
we have access to the vast ocean of the unsearchable riches of Christ.
Humility does not bathe in the glory of a self denying life;
humility looks to Christ and boasts in His glory.
Our weakness is overcome by His strength;
our poverty is removed by the riches of His grace;
and our inability is made irrelevant by His power that works in us.

Our Comforter

Matthew 5:4 'Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.'

We mourn because in ourselves we can do nothing; but we are not alone.
In Christ we have been given every provision.
He is our Comforter who turns our mourning into rejoicing.
He has removed sin far from us;
He has brought us into the family of God;
He has made us inheritors of the promises of God.
He is our representative before the Father.
The Holy Spirit stands by us in our daily life.
He comforts us by His power that works in us.
He overcomes our weaknesses.
Our strength is in Him.
He gives power to live in the Spirit; to pray in the Spirit;
and to walk in the Spirit.

Blessed are the meek.

Matthew 5:5 'Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.'

Meekness relies fully upon the Lord;
it depends upon His provision;

it yields to His leading;
and rests in His protection.
Meekness does not seek to elevate itself;
neither does it hope to gain personal advantage;
yet the meek are those who inherit the earth.
In Christ we have all things;
we have no need to fight for superiority; we are children of the King.
Meekness is able to rejoice when others are given prominence above us;
and prays for the power of God to work in and through the lives of others.
It never pulls others down;
it desires only for the will of the Lord to be fulfilled
in and through His people.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Matthew 5:6 'Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.'

Hunger and thirst will produce an urgency to find food and drink.
They are healthy and natural desires.
When we hunger and thirst for righteousness
it is because we can find no resources in ourselves to satisfy our need.
Self-righteousness will never produce a hunger and thirst for righteousness.
It is because of our lack of righteousness that we hunger and thirst for it.
The desire for righteousness can only be fulfilled in Christ;
and not by our own efforts.
We are blessed because the life of Christ dwells in us;
changing us into His likeness;
and producing in us the fruit of a righteous life.

Blessed are the merciful

Matthew 5:7 'Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.'

There is freedom in forgiveness.
If we show mercy to others then evil thoughts and desires
cannot hold our heart and mind captive.
The merciful overcome evil by doing good.
Forgiving others is an expression of thankfulness to the Lord
for all He has done for us.
Forgiveness never condones a wrong that is done
but it will release us from the destructive power of bitterness and hate.
Forgiveness is a prerequisite for answered prayer.
If we keep unforgiveness in our heart
then our prayers will be hindered.
Forgiving others can never earn the mercy of God;
but it will show the power of God is at work in our life.

Purity in heart is a gift.

Matthew 5:8 'Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.'

Purity in heart is a gift.
It can never be achieved by our efforts;
it must be received in Christ.
He came for this purpose to give us a new heart;
a clean heart; a pure heart; a heart filled with His love.
The works of the flesh are the outworking of an evil heart.
The pleasure they give produce death.
The world desires them; Hollywood glorifies them;
and without Christ we are captive to them.
The fruit of the Spirit is the product of new life in Christ.
All who love them love life;
and through them the Holy Spirit works in us;
preparing us for the day when we shall see Jesus.

Blessed are the peacemakers.

Matthew 5:9 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.'

The gospel of Christ is the message of reconciliation with God.
In Christ alone we have peace with God.
He took the enmity that stood between us and God.
All who have received new life in Christ carry the message
that is able to bring peace and reconciliation with God.
The gospel of Christ will bring peace with God to whoever believes.
When we have peace with God then His peace will keep us;
His peace will guard us;
and His peace will be as a guide within us.
We can bring His peace to others
because in Christ we have found the peace
that is beyond all understanding.

His righteousness is the path we follow.

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

His righteousness is the path we follow.
It is not moralistic or legalistic;
it is the outworking of new life in Christ.
Truth guides our way.
The path is straight and does not bend with the time.

If we love Christ, we will follow after righteousness.
If we love His word, we will follow after truth.
If we desire Christ, we must be willing to be despised by the world.
If we conform to the world then we will be accepted by the world;
and persecution is guaranteed if we follow righteousness.
But only in Jesus Christ will we find peace, joy, and love
that the world cannot take away.

Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness.

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

If we deliberately stir up the hostility of others
then we are not persecuted;
we are just reaping the consequences of being provocative.
Persecution for the sake of righteousness is always unprovoked.
It is promised to all who live a godly life because
righteousness exposes the corruption of the world.
We will be persecuted because
righteousness cannot lower its standard
in order to accommodate the standards of the world;
and it will not change the gospel of Christ
in order to maintain unity and friendship.
We will face hostile actions and hateful words when we represent Christ;
but we are blessed because in Christ our reward is great.

Blessed; reviled; persecuted; falsely spoken against.

Matthew 5:11 'Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.'

It is not for Christians to revile; persecute; or speak falsely against others.
We are blessed and we carry this blessing to all who will receive Christ.
If we elevate ourselves and seek our own desires
then the world will recognise itself in us.
If we love Christ more than the pleasures of the world
then it will see we are different.
We will be reviled when faithfulness to Christ
means more than the prosperity of the world;
we will be persecuted when truth
means more than friendship with the world;
and we will be falsely spoken against
when obedience to Christ
means more than personal advantage.

We do not seek persecution but we rejoice in it.

Matthew 5:12 'Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.'

Persecution associates us with those who have been mighty for Christ.

We do not seek persecution

but we rejoice in it because we serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our joy sets us free from concern regarding the hostility of others.

Love for Christ is everything.

We are free to bless those who curse us;

free to love those who hate us;

and free to pray for those who would injure us.

The shame we suffer now will be as jewels when we see Jesus.

He is the eternal Son of God yet He gladly suffered the hatred of man because of His love for us.

Stephen Dulwich