Poor in Spirit

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

1. Christ draws a picture where the Divine blessing rests. Each line emphasizes some distinct spiritual feature; and with every line we should honestly and carefully *compare ourselves.*

This declaration of Christ’s is so different from the popular view among men!

The world view is, Blessed are the rich, for theirs is the kingdom of the world.

1. Christ says "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," which is better than being rich and better than all the kingdoms of the earth;

Who but Christ regards the poor in spirit as the blessed or happy ones of the earth?

Who but genuine Christians regard the poor in Spirit, blessed or the happy ones?

1. The keynote of all His teaching is not what a man does only, but what he **is**in the sight of God. "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

There is just as much pride in the poor as there is in the rich.

Both the Poor and the Rich must be emptied out of Self.

1. This poverty of spirit receives seed for the fruit of Love which is a spiritual grace wrought by the Holy Spirit in those whom He renews, restores and delivers. (Rom.5:5)

By nature we are well pleased with ourselves, and mad enough to think that we deserve something good at the hands of God. Only a miracle of God’s grace can change our heart, of a rich in spirit attitude, proud, filling our hearts instead of emptying our hearts from self-righteousness.

Poverty of spirit is not found among the majority. Often we see advertised "promotions for the higher life," but who ever heard of one for furthering the *lowly* life?

Promotions for the Poor in Spirit

Mat. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

2Cor. 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Many are **saying** be "filled with the Spirit" but where can we **find what it means** to be “filled with the Spirit” and so to be spiritually emptied of self—emptied of self-confidence, self-importance, and self-righteousness?

A deep sense of our insufficiency and nothingness

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

That which is of great price in His sight is despised by men—by modern Pharisees, who hold nearly all the positions of prominence in Christianity. Almost all of the so-called "ministry’s" of this generation feeds pride, instead of denying the flesh; puffs up, rather than abases; and frowns upon searching and stripping.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." And *what is* poverty of spirit?

1. It is the opposite of pride, haughty, self-assertive and self-sufficient disposition which the world so admires and praises. It is the very reverse of that independent and defiant attitude which refuses to bow to God, which determines to brave things out, which says with Pharaoh, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?" To be "poor in spirit" is to realize that I have nothing, am nothing, and can do nothing, and have need of all things.

Poverty of spirit is a consciousness of my emptiness and my nothingness. This only results from the Spirit’s work within, but He never leaves us empty but He Fills us with His Love.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

It comes from the understanding that all my righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

It follows the awakening that my best performances are unacceptable, yea, an abomination to the Lord.

Isaiah 64:6—*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

1. Poverty of spirit corresponds to the awakening of the prodigal in the far country, when he "began to be *in want.*"

Preached not only to their ears, but to their hearts!

Mat. 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

1. Poverty of spirit may be termed the negative side of faith. It is that realization of my utter worthlessness which precedes the laying hold of Christ, the eating of His flesh and drinking His blood. It is the Spirit emptying the heart of self that Christ may fill it: it is a sense of need and destitution.
2. This first Beatitude, then, is foundational, describing a fundamental trait which is found in every regenerated soul. The one who is poor in spirit is nothing in his own eyes, and feels that his proper place is in the dust before God. He may, through false teaching or worldliness, leave this place, but God knows how to bring him back; and in His faithfulness and love He will do so, for it is the place of blessing for His children. How to cultivate this God-honoring spirit is revealed in Matthew 11:29.
3. Poverty of spirit is "blessed." because he has a disposition the very opposite of what was by nature, He has the first sure evidence that a Divine work of grace has been wrought in his heart, because he is an heir of the "kingdom of heaven"—the kingdom of grace to glory.

10.Many gracious promises are addressed to the poor in spirit.

* Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love

Eph. 3:19—*And to know the* ***love*** *of Christ, which passeth* ***knowledge****, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (Be emptied out for His Fullness)*

Song 4:13 Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; **camphire**, with spikenard, {camphire: or, cypress}