

Title: Foundations of Faith #11 Being Poor**WORK BOOK****Why is being poor a foundation of faith?**

Hopefully you will find out that being poor is a good thing.

It's a place that we want to be in. It sounds like a real downer but in fact it isn't, it's a right perspective of who we are and who God is.

And He says when we have this right perspective we enter into His Kingdom

- To understand the Beatitudes, we must understand God

- His name Yahweh means "to be"

"He who causes everything to be"

- He was revealed to us as "I Am" in the scripture

- God said I Am and the people filled in the blanks

Jehovah-shalom – I Am peace

Jehovah – nissi – I Am your banner your victor

Jehovah – Jireh – I Am your provider

- He is a God that is there for us when we need Him

- If we need nothing we will get nothing

- If we are self righteous we don't need a Christ and we will never know or experience His salvation, Jesus which means "I Am Salvation"

- The Bible is the constitution (the way in which a thing is composed or made up) of the Kingdom of God

- The Beatitudes are the preamble (introductory statement) of this constitution

- They are how we enter into this happiness called the Kingdom of God

- They are also a progression in a persons life as we enter the Kingdom of God

- I recommend that we study and meditate on these 8 blessings and that we memorize them, and pray for them in our lives that the Word may become flesh in our lives, that "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"

- These are not just good things to know, they are a must for entrance into the Kingdom of God.

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We are going to discuss only one of them, but also the most important, because of what Jesus says about it.

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

Q. What does it mean to be poor?

Q. Is a homeless person living in the USA as poor as a person living in a house in India?

Q. What is it to be poor as in the Scripture talks about being poor?

You may need or be lacking in many things:

- to be sober
- to love your wife
- work hard
- stop spending more than you make
- to be satisfied with what you have
- be saved

We need these things but as far as we are concerned we are doing just fine without them. Fat, dumb and happy living in sin.

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The word Poor; defines as: beggarly

The poor in spirit that Jesus is talking about I think is to need and to not only need but to desperately want and desire, even more to be willing to beg for it.

The kind of poor that will go down on their knees and beg, pray, request, cry, not just cry but weep, and do whatever it takes to get what God has for us, even to the point of changing our very lives in effort to get it.

Q. Has any one here been in that state of being poor in spirit?

Q. Describe your answer?

Luke 18: 10-14 the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

¹⁰ *“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’*

¹³ *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’*

¹⁴ *“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

In fact I never met a Born Again Christian who hasn't done all of the above to get saved, to get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Every one of us has bent our knee, prayed, wept, and changed the way we live because of and in search of God through Jesus Christ.

Q. What does it mean to you when I ask, what does it mean not to be poor in spirit?

The Pharisee though a good man especially in his own eyes failed to see his need for God's righteousness

Rom 9:31-33

³¹ but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³² Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written:

"See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."

To think you are righteous, your ok, your certainly better than most.

That is to have your own righteousness, and when that happens you don't need Christ as your savior.

When He said I have come for the sick not the well, it doesn't mean that He doesn't love or care for well people, it means He can't help people who think their ok when their not.

John 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge (condemn) the world but that the world should be saved through Him. 18 He who believes in Him is not judged (condemned); he who does not believe has been judged (condemned) already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"

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Q. What was the greatest revelation you got when you first got saved? Even if you got saved very young.

Q. What is it that we are really saved from?

We are really not saved from sin; we are saved from the wrath of God, which we are the object of (Eph 2:3), because of our sin.

³ *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

Q. What kind of a feeling do we get upon receiving Christ, repenting and confessing our sin, turning to God?

Q. Are there any other instances in your life that you need to be poor in spirit?