

June 9, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mt. 5:3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. (NIV)*

When we come to know Christ as Savior and Lord, it fulfills the missing link in our spiritual DNA. What was damaged because of our sin, has now been restored through the filling of the Holy Spirit. And we need to be clear that these attitudes or characteristics of our LORD, are not achieved by any means, but are there because of the One Who lives within us and has restored real life in us. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, their spirit died within them. The LORD had told them not to eat of that particular tree: **Gen. 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."*** (NIV) Notice, the LORD didn't say 'if' you eat of it, but 'when.' He knew that we would suffer and fall and need redemption. That is why it states in **Rev. 13:8 *All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb Who was slain from the creation of the world.*** (NIV) So, we are suffering because of our sin, but now we can be restored. We can begin to experience what it was like in the beginning when Adam and Eve enjoyed the pure fellowship with the Father. That is why we are 'blessed.' The word literally means filled with joy and happiness. The term 'poor in spirit' means that they have realized that without the LORD, they are spiritually bankrupt. This was a picture of someone who knew that were without what they really needed. And it is significant to note that this 'beautiful attitude' is the first attitude because it is where we must start with our reconciliation with the LORD. We must first know that we are sinners to know we need a Savior. Someone once stated that if we are going to use a ladder, we must first step upon the rung that is closest to the ground. That is what poor in spirit means. We realize where we are and where He wants us to be. It reminds me of an old bumper sticker I once read: Christians are not perfect, just forgiven. Paul states it like this in **Rom. 7:21-24 *So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*** (NIV)

Dear LORD, thank You for showing us what we need through life in the Savior. We desire to experience the life of Christ as we walk the path that You have for us. We give You all praise and glory for what You have done for us. It is because of You, that we can truly live. In Jesus Name, Amen