

KINGDOM ATTRIBUTES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

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God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. (Matthew 5:3, NLT)

What Is It To Be Poor In Spirit?

To realise your need for God. Knowing that you can't live without Him.

Dick Iverson puts it:

- Recognising our utter helplessness before God.
- Recognising I cannot face life and eternity apart from God.
- To be empty of the pride of self-achievement.

Who Is To Be Poor In Spirit?

We are to be poor in spirit and for the most part those who have given their lives to Christ have recognised that poverty of Spirit and have recognised that you need God.

Definitions:

Need - to require something/somebody because they are essential or very important, not just because you would like to have them.

Realise - to understand or become aware of a particular fact or situation.

Why Is It Important That We Recognise Our Need For God?

We live in a world that is trying to convince us that we do not need God and that we as humans are powerful; that power comes from us alone and we are self-sufficient.

The rhetoric is:

- You can do anything you set your mind to
- If you can conceive it you can achieve it
- Look within yourself
- Believe in yourself

At face value these are positive and encouraging messages but they subtly remove the need for God.

If you try to base your life on self-worth you are already bankrupt. -Dick Iverson

You can have all the time in the world and still somehow not make time to pray or read the word. You have to realise your need for Him. You have to want Him more than anything else. You have to see Him as important for daily living and make Him a priority.

Needing God

Not needing God for material things. It's more like the need for oxygen, the need for vital organs. That's what our need for God should compare to.

When you hide your face, they are terrified, when you take away their breath; they die and return to the dust. (Psalm 104:29, NIV)

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4, NIV)

If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, all humanity would perish together and mankind would return to the dust. (Job 34:14-15, NIV)

These scriptures remind us that the life we live is a gift from God and it is only because of He wills it that we are here.

When we use the word 'poor' it suggests that there is a lack in something or that we are deficient, if you don't realise that you are lacking in something then you will not work to get the thing you are lacking. You will not search for it and you will have no desire for it.

My prayer is that our need for God will not be based on the circumstances. I find myself only needing God because I am in trouble or needing God to help me through a tough time in life; but may my need for God be a need for Him in everyday of my life.

Exodus 3:9-15

Throughout his time leading Israel to the promised land you see him going before God time and time again asking Him what to do and which way to go. He knew God had parted the red sea not Him, he knew God would be the one to provide for His people.

Manna from heaven and Quail – Exodus 16: 4

Providing water from rock - Numbers 20:11

Exodus 33:15-16

Moses knew that he and his people needed God. Time and time again throughout Moses' journey with the Israelites you see Moses bringing the people back in line and reminding them who their God is and that they need God not idols.

What Are The Behaviours Of Someone Who Knows That They Are Poor In Spirit?

- a) **Be prayerful** - being in constant communication with God because you know you can't do life without Him. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to pray about everything.
- b) **Read God's word** to gain knowledge and understanding

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105, NLT)

- c) **Be thankful to God** for all He does for you (knowing you did not achieve it on your own) and share testimony's of His goodness with others.
- d) **Be humble** – the result of poverty of spirit means you place your confidence in God, which results in absence of pride.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honour. (James 4:10, NLT)

Matthew 5: 13-16

We now need to go and help others realise that they need God so they can come out of darkness and inherit the kingdom of God with us.