

The BEATITUDES

A series of 9 studies in the Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

By John Nixon.

Discover

the conditions for triumph in the Kingdom of heaven.

Learn to Live in God's will, in God's wisdom and God's power.

*My answers are freely available with no obligation.
Request "Answers for the Beatitudes"
from jnixonj@gmail.com*

Study #1⁹ Introduction to the BEATITUDES. The Blessed!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Conditions for triumph!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PHILIPPIANS 3 : 14.

1. Do any of the Beatitudes seem to contradict the worldly attitudes to achieving success today?
2. In Romans 12:2 what is the true worshipper of God told that you need to do, and what are you told not to do in order to be pleasing to God and be blessed by Him?
3. What does the true believer gain through taking this course of action in Romans 12:2?
4. In Matthew 6:33 what did Jesus say the true worshipper of God needed to focus on?
5. What assurance did Jesus repeat nine times in the passage we read? What does that tell us?
6. God's predestined plan of Salvation for the Believer in Christ embraces our PAST, our PRESENT or/and our FUTURE. Illustrate which aspect(s) - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE? - are referred to in the following:-
Titus 2:11-14.....Romans 3:23-26.....1 Timothy 1:14-17.....
Hebrews 9:28 Hebrews 13:20-21..... Romans 10:9
7. Illustrate which tense do these refer to - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE?:
Glorification.....
Justification
Sanctification
8. What do you think the Beatitudes are to teach us:
How to become a Christian?.....
How to identify a Christian?
Christlike characteristics we should strive to achieve?
9. Do you think it is a reasonable conclusion for me to say that Jesus is spelling out for us **Conditions for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven?** Give reasons for your answer
10. Why should you and I be convinced that the Beatitudes are vital and relevant for a vibrant and God-glorifying Christian life today?

Study #2⁹ of the BEATITUDES

Poor in spirit! - CHILDLIKE

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Live by the SPIRIT.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 18 : 4.

1. What is the first *condition for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven* that Jesus highlights for us? Why would that have been so difficult for His disciples to accept?
2. In Matthew 18:1-4 the disciples of Jesus were eager to find out from Jesus "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" What principle of the Kingdom of Heaven did Jesus teach to them and what visual aid did He use to bring home the very important truth?
3. Jesus commended CHILDLIKENESS (not childishness!) List some childlike characteristics that would be pleasing and acceptable to God.
4. Can you identify in your life any areas of conflict with the concept of having to be poor in spirit as a **CONDITION FOR TRIUMPH IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?**
5. To be poor in spirit seems an unlikely precondition to success and victory in life! What does Jesus Christ claim will be the outcome of having such an attitude? (cf Matthew 18:3-4.)
6. How can the successes and achievements of this life be easily cheapened or/and rendered worthless in a very short period of time?
7. Is there no inheritance or possession that can be had or known in this life that is secure and enduring?
8. A Believer who is "poor in spirit" would not be out to promote him/herself. Who or what would that person promote?
9. What recurring phrase in Galatians 5:16-25 could well sum up the life this Beatitude speaks about?
10. Can you think of any Bible characters who tried to use their childlike characteristics as an excuse for not doing God's will?

Study #3₉ of the BEATITUDES The Mourner! - CONTRITE

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Grieve not the Spirit!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: ISAIAH 66 : 2 B.

1. What are some of the things that come to mind as causes for people to mourn?
2. According to the world we live in "Pleasure is the chief good!" - HEDONISM. How does that definition relate to the downfall of the world's wisest man? See Ecclesiastes 2:10. Note his conclusion in v. 11.
3. Is there pleasure to be found in the things of this world? Check your answer against Hebrews 11:24-25.
4. Blessed are those who mourn! Find the word that is common (in N.I.V.) to the following passages that suitably describes the Mourner: Psalm 51:17. Isaiah 57:15. Isaiah 66:2.
5. Someone has said, "What the HEART loves, the WILL chooses and the MIND justifies." Find out what God says about Heart, Mind and Will in Jeremiah 17:9-10.
6. In Romans 7:14-25 Paul records his constant struggle between good and evil. Is there any indication of a broken and contrite heart?
7. Popular maxims today include: "If it feels good, do it!" or "Just do it!" List some areas of life where it is very obviously not a good philosophy of life for the Believer.
8. Make a list of the things that caused the Spirit of God to grieve and mourn in the days of Noah – Genesis 6:1-7. What is your response to such things in society today?
9. We are told "do not grieve the Spirit of God." (Eph 4:30.) Do you mourn any reluctance you may have to be concerned over any of the following issues that grieved God?
Amos 8:11.
Matthew 26:41.
Luke 12:42-48.
10. What contrite "conditions for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven" are revealed in the following verses:
Titus 2:11-14.
Matthew 18:12-14.
Matthew 9:35-38.
Psalm 126:6

Study #4/9 of the BEATITUDES

The Meek! - COMPLIANT

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Quench not the Spirit!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PHILIPPIANS 2 : 5-7.

1. Moses and Jesus were known for their meekness. (see Num 12:3. Matt 21:5.) What characteristic are they said to share in Hebrews 3:1-6?
2. How would you define MEEKNESS? (The above references and Zephaniah 3:12 might help.)
3. Characteristics of the end times are in conflict with this "condition for triumph in the Kingdom of heaven" - Which one is highlighted in 2 Thessalonians 2:3?
4. Common expressions in today's society are calls for "liberty and freedom"; "my rights"; "self-expression"; etc. How does this mindset contrast with Jesus' description of those who "will inherit the earth"?
5. Do you think there is a phrase in James 1:21 that might come close to defining meekness?
6. James refers there to "moral filth". Do you think that we today in C21 have to address issues of moral filth if we are to be among those who will inherit the earth?
7. I think the word COMPLIANT could help to convey the concept of meekness. Why would I think that?
8. As an indication of the age in which we live list any "rights" movements that are popular today.
9. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 exhorts us not to put out the Spirit's fire (Quench the Spirit). How is the rich ruler in Luke 18:18-30 seen to "quench the Spirit"?
10. In Philippians 2:6-11 how did Jesus display MEEKNESS in NOT quenching the Spirit? (see Heb 10:9-10.)

Study #5₉ of the BEATITUDES.

The hungry! - CRAVING

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Be filled with the Spirit!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EPHESIANS 5:18-20.

1. "In the beginning" what provision did God make to satisfy the appetites of Adam and Eve?
See Gen 1:29-30. 2:8-9, 16-17.
2. God had graciously provided all they would need to satisfy the healthy appetite they had for food and life, so what would they have to do in order to satisfy the CRAVING of their appetite?
3. What are some of the means of grace that God has made available for His people to satisfy their spiritual cravings today?
4. What is the source of the Christian's **righteousness**? See Romans 3:21-26. & 4:4-8.
5. In the light of the previous answer why does Jesus speak of hunger and thirst for righteousness?
6. What are some of the diets we find advertised today? What are some of the problems with diets?
7. What enticements can seek to lure us away from this "condition for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven"?
8. Can you find out the main differences between the eating disorders known as BULIMIA and ANOREXIA?
9. Could there be such disorders as SPIRITUAL BULIMIA and SPIRITUAL ANOREXIA? Defend your answer.
10. What is Jesus' antidote for such spiritual disorders? and what is the prognosis?

Study #6₉ of the BEATITUDES. The Merciful! - COMPASSIONATE

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Controlled by the Spirit!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MICAH 6 : 8.

1. In the following verses find the word starting with "C" that I have linked with "merciful": Psalm 86:15-16. / Psalm 145:8. / Exodus 34:6-7. / Nehemiah 9:17. / Jonah 2:13.
2. What are some of the other attributes associated with compassion in the above verses?
3. According to Exodus 34:6-7 what does being merciful and compassionate NOT imply?
4. To be merciful does not imply compromising on TRUTH or JUDGMENT or JUSTICE or PUNISHMENT. Find which of these statements is supported in each of the following passages: Deut 13:1-5 / Gal 1:8-9 Acts 16:35-37 / 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 10-19.
5. MERCY is often associated with GRACE. Can you list any verses that link Mercy and Grace?
6. What is the difference between GRACE and MERCY?
7. In the following verses find out why the people did not deserve the mercy God showed to them: Nehemiah 9:31. Isaiah 55:7. Psalm 103:8-13.
8. How can you explain a merciful God saying the words of Luke 17:1-2?
9. How would you explain James 2:13?
10. Luke 6:36! How could we ever achieve this condition for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven? (Rom 8:9.)

Study #7⁹ of the BEATITUDES Pure in heart! - CONVERTED

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Indwelt by the Spirit!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PSALM 139 : 23-24.

1. What could the "heart" be referring to – (give reasons for your answer) - 1. Physical heart that circulates our blood. Or 2. Seat of our emotions. Or 3. Motivating "drive" for our actions. Or what?
2. What is God's evaluation of the heart of man? See Jeremiah 17:9

Can you think of other verses that speak of the heart of man?
3. The HEART is the source (Mark 7:21-23.) of *deceit/ adultery/ malice/ sexual immorality / theft / greed / arrogance / evil thoughts / slander / murder / envy / folly ...* Classify these under the following headings:
 - ◆ **crooked Intellect** -
 - ◆ **covetous Emotion** -
 - ◆ **corrupt Will** -
4. Find out how God evaluates man in the following verses:
Jeremiah 17:10.
Revelation 2:23.
1 Samuel 16:7.
5. What is God's one and only solution for our sinful heart problems? If you need help see Ezekiel 36:26-27.
6. You may have heard the expression "wearing you heart on you sleeve." What does our heart reveal about us according to these verses:
Luke 6:45..... Luke 12:34.
2 Cor 1:21-22. 1 John 3:18-20.
Mark 7:20-23.
7. What requirement does this Beatitude give as a condition of triumph in the kingdom of Heaven?
8. How could this requirement be achieved within such a corrupt "heart"?
9. How can the Holy Spirit enable this purity of heart to be preserved? (2 Cor 1:22. Ezek 36:26-27.)
10. What will be the ourcome of this condition in the life of the one who is striving to triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Study #8₉ of the BEATITUDES. Peacemaker! - CAMPAIGNER

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Witnessing by the Spirit!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EPHESIANS 4 : 2-3.

1. Are there any peace initiatives going on in our world today that you know of?
2. Are these the kind of peace initiatives that Jesus had in mind for His followers to be involved with? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Is "Blessed are the peacemakers" in conflict with what Jesus said in Matt 10:34-36. and Luke 6:26?
4. What was the message to the world that accompanied the birth of the Prince of peace? (Luke 2 10-14.)
5. In the light of what the Bible says in Jeremiah 6:13-15 about **religious peace** do you reckon **that** is what Jesus was referring to in the Beatitudes?
6. In the light of what the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 about **political peace** do you reckon **that** is what Jesus was referring to in the Beatitudes?
7. As "Ambassadors for Christ" put in your own words the PEACE we are to be **campaigners** for according to 2 Corinthians 5:17-21?
8. In Acts 10:42-43 discover who has POWER and who has AUTHORITY as we go forth to the lost campaigning for peace with God?
9. What is the source of POWER that the faithful campaigner will have in witnessing for God? (See Acts 1:8. 5:32.)
10. As a "condition for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven" who else are we to reach out to in our campaign for peace according to Romans 14:17-21 and also Matthew 5:43-48?

Study #9₉ of the BEATITUDES

Persecuted! - CONSECRATED

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12.

Spirit of power & love!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: LUKE 6 : 22-23.

1. Why should the Believer in Christ not be surprised at persecution against him being on the increase? See John 15:19-21.
2. Align each of these passages – Rom 16:17-20; Galatians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 4:14-16; 2 Tim 4:2-5. - with the statement that indicate that a Believer's persecution should not be because of: – wrong doing -; legalizing preferences -; insensitive exposure of errors-; hyper denominationalism -
3. In the following passages find out the sources from which persecution can arise when we are being faithful to the Lord. Matthew 10:34-39. Matthew 5:38-42. Matthew 7:6.
4. In Luke 20:9-18 what was it that put the servants and son in the firing line for persecution?
5. I think this Beatitude calls for the Believer to be CONSECRATED. What does consecrated mean? Do you think it is relevant to this Beatitude?
6. What informative occupations are the Christian's life and service for the Lord compared to in the following passages, and could they be unpopular? Mark 16:15-16. Ezekiel 33:1-9.
7. In the following passages what tending occupations are the Christian's life and service for the Lord compared to, and could they be unrewarding? Matthew 13:1-9, 24-30. Mark 2:17.
8. What should inspire the believer to be consecrated and resolute in our service (and suffering) for the Lord? (If you need help with your answer go to Hebrews 12:1-3.)
9. What provision has God made for the persecuted Believer according to 2 Timothy 1:7-14?
10. What is going to be your response to all the "conditions for triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven " that Jesus taught in the Beatitudes?

Summary of our study through the Beatitudes as found in Matthew 5:1-12.



BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:1-12.

Primarily to do with our
relationship with God

v.3	Poor in spirit ...	CHILDLIKE	\ Walk in the Spirit.	Gal 5:25.
v.4	Mourner	CONTRITE	\ Grieve not the Spirit.	Ep 4:32.
v.5	Meek	COMPLIANT	\ Quench not the Spirit.	1 Th 5:19.
v.6	Hungry	CRAVING	\ Be filled with the Spirit.	Eph 5:18.

Primarily to do with our
relationship with man

v.7	Merciful	COMPASSIONATE	\ Controlled by the Spirit.	Rom 8:9-11.
v.8	Pure in heart ...	CONVERTED	\ Indwelt by the Spirit.	Jn 14:15-21.
v.9	Peacemaker ...	CAMPAIGNER	\ Witnessing by the Spirit.	Ac 5:31-32.
v.10	Persecuted ...	CONSECRATED	\ Spirit of power & love.	2 Tim 1:7-14.

Discovering God's STRENGTH
in our weakness

Finding God's POWER
in our feebleness

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