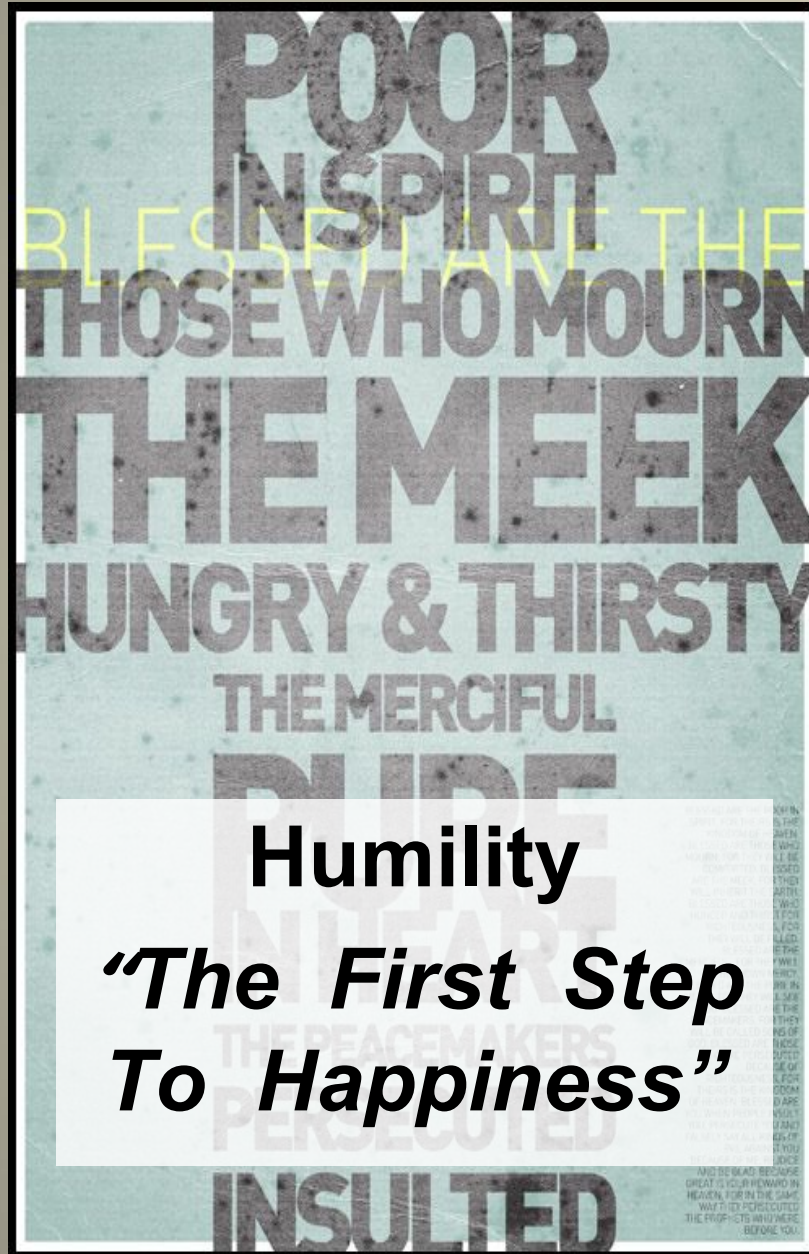


Edward Christian
Church

May 18,
2014



“B1”

**Blessed are the
Poor in Spirit**

“Let Go of My Ego”

Vitamins are Beneficial

B Vitamins have been used for years for:

- **Energy**
- **Outlook**
- **Strength**

Jesus Gives us some B Vitamins for:

- **Energy**
- **Outlook**
- **Strength**

They are Called ...the Beatitudes

What Would It Take...

...to Make You Happy?

52,000 Americans Asked in Psychology Today

- **Friends and Social Life**
- **Having a Good Job**
- **Being in Love**
- **Recognition and Success**
- **Sex**
- **Personal Growth**
- **Good Financial Situation**
- **Having a Nice Home or Apartment**
- **Being Attractive and Beautiful**
- **Being Married**

What Would It Take...

...to Make You Happy?

Survey says Most Attempt to Find Happiness:

- **through EXTERNAL SITUATIONS**
- **When Circumstances Are Right – *I'll be happy***
- **When/Then Thinking. It goes something like this:**
 - *“When I get married then I'll be happy.”*
 - *“When I loose ?? pounds then I'll be happy.”*
 - *“When I win the lottery then I'll be happy.”*

What Would It Take...

...to Make You Happy?

**Is it Possible to Be Happy – Even If ...
...the Circumstances are Not Perfect?”**

Happiness is Not Based on Circumstances

- **it is Based on Attitude**
- **Circumstances Can Change**
- **Circumstances Will Change**
- **But the Right Attitude will Change You**

When this Attitude is Active in Your Life...

- **You Become More Like Christ**
- **Matthew Chapter 5 - “*Beatitudes*”**

Blessed are ...

- the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
- those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
- Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” -
Matthew 5:3-12 (NKJV)

What Does It Mean To Be Poor In Spirit?

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

What it does NOT mean:

- I have ***“no value”***
- I need to have ***“low self esteem”***
- I need to ***“put myself down”***

**Jesus did not die for junk – He died for people.
You have...**

...Value, Worth, Purpose, Significance

- That does not mean that you are perfect
- yet you have value.

What Does It Mean To Be Poor In Spirit?

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

What it Does Mean:

- **We need to have an attitude of humility.**
- **When it comes to our relationship with God we are all on the same playing field.**
- **We all depend on Him for our salvation**

Poor in Spirit = Humility

What Does It Mean To Be Poor In Spirit?

**Humility Is Not Thinking Less of Yourself
– It Is Thinking of Yourself LESS.**

Humility is Admitting that ...

- **you don't have it all together**
- **you don't know it all**
- **realizing that the universe does not revolve around me**
- **admitting to God that you need His help.**

Benefit One: Humility Reduces STRESS

**When I know that I don't have all the answers...
...a great burden is lifted off my
shoulders.**

...reduces a lot of stress in our life.

- **I don't have to solve everyone's problems**
- **I can't solve everyone's problems**
- **I don't have all the answers...**
...But I can point you to the One who does.
- **I don't have to play God...**
...I can show you the way to God.
- **I am a guide to Jesus - so are you**

Benefit Two: Humility Improves RELATIONSHIPS

#1- with God

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,/ pray and seek My face,/ turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, /will forgive their sin and heal their land.” -2 Chron 7:14

Four Steps that Improve a Relationship with God:

Humble ourselves

Pray

Seek God's face

Stop sinning (turn from our wicked ways)

Benefit Two: Humility Improves RELATIONSHIPS

#1- with God

#2- with Others

When our Relationship with God Improves...

...It Puts Us in a Position for

...Relationships with Others to Improve

**Eph 4:2, "w- all humility/ gentleness, w-patience
bearing one another w- love"**

Benefit Three: Humility Releases God's POWER

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” -James 4:6 (HCSB)

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” -1 Pet 5:6

- **spiritual power is given to those who walk humbly before the Lord.**
- **God gives strength to those who realize that they need to depend on Him.**
- **I humble myself before Him and He strengthens me.**

Benefit Three: Humility Releases God's POWER

"Jesus said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me." -2 Cor12:9 (HCSB)

You have often heard it said –

..."God helps those who can help themselves."

○ **This is not a true statement.**

The truth is: "God helps those who realize they can't help themselves."

He expects us to do our best - but He also expects us to rely on His strength.

○ **When we admit we need Him - He steps in.**

What Does It Mean To Be Poor In Spirit?

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

Learning to Lean:

- On Self Less
- Others More
- God Always

HE BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS THEIRS. BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED. BLESSED ARE THE MECK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL BE MERCY. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS THEIRS. BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE YOU, AND FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU, BECAUSE OF ME, REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN, FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS AND MICE BEFORE YOU.