

The Year of Harvest

Prayer Guide

Week 31

The Year of Harvest – The Fruit of the Kingdom – Poor in Spirit

Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3 (NLT)



Prayer Focus: The fruit that can be harvested in our lives goes deeper than just the things that we do for God or for others. The true seeds of faith produce fruit in our character, who we are on the inside. In what is known as the “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus talks about some of these inner characteristics of those who are a part of the Kingdom of God. In Matthew 5:3, Jesus says, God blesses those who are poor in spirit. Here, poor in spirit has the idea of those who know their own weaknesses, those who know they are in need of the power, wisdom and salvation of God in their lives. Those who feel their great need for the direction and life of God within them. Jesus speaks in contrast to the thinking and the ways of the world. The world would teach us that those who are most happy are those who are strong, and who are rich in the things of this world. Those are most happy who have authority over others and power over their material possessions. Those of the world seek to find happiness in being in control. However, Jesus teaches us here that those are most blessed, those are the most happy who know their own weakness, and their own neediness. Jesus says that to these people belongs the kingdom of heaven. Isaiah 57:15 says that God, who is high and lofty and inhabits eternity is near to them who have a contrite and humble spirit. He is near to them to revive their spirits and their hearts. To those who recognize their own spiritual helplessness, God draws near and brings strength and revival. James says that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). Here is a fruit in the lives of the believer that is not often talked about, and rarely taught. Yes God says that He is close to the humble – the poor in spirit. Does this grace characterize your life? Your attitudes? Humble yourself before Him and he will draw near to you (James 4:8).

Day 1: Spend time quietly before God and let him examine your life. Does this grace fill your life?

Day 2: Praise the Lord for His love and mercy to be near to those who know they need Him.

Day 3: Take time to ask the Lord to teach you how to live as one who is poor in spirit, and humble.

Day 4: Ask God to work into your life a proper neediness for Him, and to learn in dependence upon Him.

Day 5: Pray that your church would teach and disciple its members in this grace of the kingdom.

Day 6: Pray that other churches would also be teaching an living this grace in your city.

Day 7: Pray that the missionaries you know would be characterized by this grace of being poor in spirit.