

## **BEATITUDES IN CONVERSION**

(Matthew 5:1-12)

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### **Introduction:**

- A. Genuine conversions take place from without *and within* (e.g., **Rom. 6:17**).
- B. Every person who decides to obey the gospel must consider the kind of life he or she is committing himself to.
- C. The Beatitudes teaches us understanding of the true heart of conversion to God as well as the kind of life change that God expects from each person.

### **I. The Process of Conversion (Mat. 5:3-6).**

A. Fellowship with God begins with being “*poor in spirit*” (**Mat. 5:3**).

- 1. In coming to God, each person must empty himself of pride, arrogance, and humble himself before the Lord.
- 2. Each person must recognize his/ her true spiritual condition before the most holy God as a *sinner* (**Isa. 6:3-5; Rom. 3:23; James 4:10; Isa. 57:15**).
- 3. The “*kingdom of heaven*” belongs to the “*poor in spirit*”! (**Mat. 5:3**).

B. As one sees his/ her spiritual condition before God, he will then “mourn” (**Mat. 5:4**).

- 1. Mourning specifically over the sins we have committed against God (**Ps. 51:4**).
- 2. Sorrow for the fact that our sins brought God’s Son to the cross (**1 Pet. 2:24**).
- 3. Mourning or “*godly sorrow*” leads to repentance and salvation (**2 Cor. 7:9-10**) and thus eternal “*comfort*” (**Mat. 5:4**).

C. The “*poor in spirit*” who mourns over his sin will also be meek (**Mat. 5:5**).

- 1. Meek = Mild, calm, gentle, kind, considerate, *strength under control*.
- 2. Put away pride and allow yourself to be *under God’s control*.
  - a. Instead of pride and self-sufficiency, we depend on God for salvation (**Titus 3:4-7**): We cannot save ourselves!
  - b. Maintaining an obedient faith (**James 2:14-26**), yet putting our trust and dependence in the Savior.
- 3. Meekness before God requires we totally surrender to God and His will and allow Him to spiritually transform us (**Rom. 12:2**).
- 4. Only the meek “*shall inherit the earth*” (**Mat. 5:5**) “*wherein righteousness dwells*” (**2 Pet. 3:13**).

D. Once emptied of pride, sin, and “self,” then a person can be spiritually “filled” (Mat. 5:6).

1. Genuine humility, godly sorrow for one’s sin, and meekness leads to the desire to be right with God.
2. Righteousness is attained through Christ (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor. 1:30).
3. To gain the righteousness found in Christ, one must obey His gospel (Gal 3:27) and continue to obey the truth or “practice righteousness” (1 John 3:7).
4. True spiritual fulfillment is given to those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Mat. 5:6).

## II. The New Life of the Converted (Mat. 5:7-12).

A. As recipients of God’s mercy, Christians practice mercy toward others (Mat. 5:7; cf. Eph. 2:4-7).

1. The mercy of God is the source of motivation to show mercy toward others (Luke 6:36).
2. Mercy is demonstrated, in part, by our willingness to forgive others (Mat. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:31-32).
3. Only the merciful will receive mercy on Judgment Day (Mat. 18:35-35; Mat. 5:8; James 2:13; cf. Mat. 6:14-15).

B. The converted are “pure in heart” (Mat. 5:8).

1. “Pure in Heart” = Clean, pure of sin, sincere, earnest devotion to God.
2. A pure longing for God, serving Him *only* (Mat. 6:24).
3. A pure heart is achieved by the help of God (Ps. 51:10; Acts 15:9).
4. Christians are to be committed to cleansing their hearts (and lives) of sin (Mat. 12:34-35; 2 Tim. 2:21-22; 1 John 1:9).
5. To “see God” or maintain fellowship with Him requires purity of heart (James 4:8).

C. All Christians are to be “peacemakers” (Mat. 5:9).

1. We are to “pursue peace with all men” (Heb. 12:14; Rom. 12:18), yet there is a greater peace we want people to have.
2. True “children of God” (Mat. 5:9b) share the gospel with others so that others may have peace with God! (2 Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 2:13-18).

D. All Christians suffer for Christ’s sake (Mat. 5:10-12).

1. Every disciple must take up his/ her cross daily (Luke 9:23), be willing to suffer for the name of Christ (e.g., Mat. 10:21-22).
2. The Christian *gladly* endures persecution knowing of God’s love and promise of salvation (Rom. 8:35-39; cf. Mat. 5:10-12).

**Conclusion: Blessed Are They Who Belong to Christ’s Kingdom and Follow the Way of Christ!**

