

ATTITUDE 1 • “Humility”

***Jesus said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 5:3 NKJV***

**I admit I am powerless over the effects of drugs and alcohol,
and self-centered behavior — my life is unmanageable.**

I. PURPOSE:

- A. We need to teach and explain that, without God, man is powerless to overcome life controlling sins, such as drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, smoking, self-pity, etc.

Why? Because man has a sin nature and is *spiritually dead*. Man lives in such a *weakened condition* that he doesn't have the power to change his life without God's help. God created Adam to be dependent upon Him for *all* things. At the fall, man became independent — a characteristic of the sin nature — he rejected God, deciding he could take care of himself.

- B. Men and women can come to realize that God-dependency, instead of self-dependency, is the answer to *all* life's problems.
- C. Man needs to become poor in spirit not rich in spirit. *Poor* here means a poverty stricken condition wherein when we find ourselves in the presence of God we realize our utter *nothingness*; we realize we need to totally rely on God to meet all our needs.
- D. Our pride has been diminished to a *humble attitude* before God and man. When we become *totally* submissive to His will, we are indeed *poor in spirit*.

II. APPLICATION:

- A. Why are we powerless and why has life become unmanageable?
1. Addiction is our sin nature out of control. Self rules.
 2. It is the “normal” condition of man in his fallen state (he is in a state of sin).
 3. We were created to be dependent upon our Creator for all things.
 4. We have blocked out God. By trying to change on our own, we have given up trying to change. We limit God.
 5. We need to admit our powerlessness so God can do His work in us.

- B. Dependence upon God allows Him to manage all things. The idea is to surrender the pride filled ego and to accept that we are powerless.
1. Jesus said: “*You can do nothing without me.*” — *John 15:5b CSV*
- C. In his fallen state, man is selfish and self-centered. He wants to control his life and those around him so he will feel better, have things the way he wants, and enjoy the pleasures the world offers.
1. He or she is on the throne, Jesus is not.
 2. We are taking care of *self*. When we relinquish the throne to Jesus, our ATTITUDES can change to those set forth for us in The Sermon on the Mount.
 3. I Corinthians 13:11 NIV— *When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.*
- D. What a psychiatrist says about The Sermon on the Mount:
- “I believe the following to be true: If you were to take the sum total of all the authoritative articles ever written by the most qualified of psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental [health] if you were to combine them, and refine them, and [remove] all the excess [words] — if you were to have these unadulterated bits of pure scientific knowledge concisely expressed by the most capable of living poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6 and 7). And it would [be much less by] comparison. For nearly two thousand years, the Christian world has been holding in its hands the complete answer . . . Here rests the blueprint for a successful human life, with optimum mental health and contentment.” — James T. Fischer, MD
- E. Jesus said the man who has these attitudes (the beatitudes) will be blessed (joyful). These are the attitudes of the mind of Christ.
1. Scripture says we should have the mind, or attitudes, of Christ:

Romans 12:2 CSV — *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*
 2. **Philippians 2:5 KJV** — *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*
 3. We have the power and authority of the Holy Spirit (Christ in us):
Ephesians 1:18-23 CSB — *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength. 20 He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens 21 far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.*

F. ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”***

1. What does “poor in spirit” mean? In the Greek, it means “a poverty stricken condition.” It means an attitude of humility.
 - a) As we find ourselves face-to-face with God, we are aware of our utter nothingness and total sinfulness:

Romans 3:23 NIV — *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*

Romans 6:23 NIV — *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - b) We become aware of our total dependence upon Him; total reliance on God for everything.
 - c) We find we cannot be self-reliant.
 - d) This “poor in spirit” attitude means an attitude of emptiness as He must first empty us of pride, self-reliance, and self-centeredness.
 - e) It means our confidence is now in God — we willingly submit to His will for our lives.
 - f) Totally dependent upon God for all we need — trusting God, not ourselves, our spouse, certain old friends, drugs and alcohol, or any other addiction.
 - g) When we totally trust God for everything, then we will know we are “*poor in spirit.*”

May God richly bless you as you choose to live His Way!

