

# Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

## Poor In Spirit



**W**hat does it mean to be poor in Spirit?

In Matthew chapter 5 Jesus has His well known Sermon on the Mount which emphasises the moral teachings of the gospel of Matthew.

The word blessed (happy) is used 9 times here of people who have godly characteristics:

**Broken Spirit** - which means those who are thoroughly convinced of their misery and danger by sin, would spare no cost to obtain the remission of it. But as they cannot make satisfaction for sin, so God cannot take any satisfaction in them, other than those who express love and duty to him. The good work wrought in every true penitent, is a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, and sorrow for sin.



The sacrifices of God  
are a broken spirit,  
a broken and a  
contrite heart

Isaiah 57: 15 has a good reference:

“For this is what the high and exalted One says that lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

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

What is the difference between contrite and humble?

Contrite means: sorry, remorseful, apologetic, penitent, ashamed;

Humble means: modest, meek, and unpretentious (down-to earth)

**Penitent Spirit**- which means Godly sorrow that works repentance to salvation, changes the lives and cleanses us from sin.

Isaiah 61: 1-3, “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the meek. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release the prisoners from darkness, proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”

Is not worldly sorrow that works death (2 Corinthians 7: 10). This is unrepentant sorrow or pain over lost goods, lost friends, lack of pleasure and partial reaping of what has been sowed.

**Mild tempered gentle spirit** - blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Meek are people with an inner beauty... 1 Peter 3: 4 “Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight”.

**Romans 7: 22**—“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man”. This refers to the spirit of man which is immortal. It also takes in the soul (mind, will and emotions), for Paul knew and willed to do God’s will and also delight in it.

**Hungering thirsty spirit, for righteousness**—“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. ” (Psalm 63: 1). “As the deer pants for the streams of water, so pants my soul after you oh, God” (Psalm 42: 1). This refers to the audible longing produced by the agony for thirst--- the intense desire and overwhelming sense of wanting God.

**Compassionate and merciful spirit**—1 Timothy 1: 5—“Whereas the object *and* purpose of our instruction *and* charge is love, which springs from a pure heart and a good (clear) conscience and sincere (unfeigned) faith.”

**Pure in Spirit** - Have your mind and heart purified by the Holy Spirit; be constantly renewed with the Word of God, having a mental and fresh attitude. **Philippians 4:8** describes that we should think on whatsoever is honest, just, lovable... We do this renewing of the mind by soaking in the presence of God, focusing on Jesus and He renews our mind. This is a constant battle where the enemy injects infected thoughts in our mind but we need to detect them and reject them and replacing them with the mind of Christ. See also **1 Peter 1:22**

**Spirit of Wisdom and meditation**—blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God. **Proverbs 24: 7** describes the wisdom of a fool, “Wisdom is too high for a fool: he opened not his mouth in the gate”. A fool will never attain wisdom, so he will never be chosen as a judge to sit in the gate where court is held. The wisdom of God is described in **Proverbs 8: 11**—“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are no to be compare to it”.

**Long suffering and forgiving Spirit** - **1 Peter 3: 14-17** explains what it means to suffer for Christ: Suffering should be borne by Christians, in patience and forbearing spirit doing the will of God, realizing that God is always faithful to his own in their sufferings. (see also **1 Corinthians 10: 13**).

Just like Jesus said in **Matthew 5: 11, 12**—“Blessed are you, when man persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”.

We can only do this by the power of the Holy Spirit, not in our own strength. The flesh is always going to scream that this is unfair, but if keep your mind on Christ, you shall walk in victory!

Let’s each of us strive to be poor in spirit as Jesus has instructed us, in order to maintain a proper relationship with God, with other Christians, as ambassadors of Christ to the world and with ourselves to achieve our destiny with God!

