

Poor in Spirit Part 1!

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I have heard many people say they were poor when growing up but did not realize it!

Most people when they discover they're poor seek a way out of poverty

What they were saying is they **were poor in spirit** because they didn't recognize there was **more** in life!

Being poor in spirit is recognizing our spiritual poverty in comparison to God!

It's realizing there's **more of God** to be found, uncovered, and obtained!

If you don't know you're poor you're ignorant of abundance!

If you don't know you're poor you're not aware of more!

If you don't know you're poor you're satisfied with what you have!

If you don't know you're poor, you lack knowledge!

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Paul says some have **come to learn** how the grace of God works through Christ, that though He was rich (**wealthy, abounding in resources, and processor of all things**) He became poor (destitute of resources) **that through His poverty we might become rich!**

Phil 2:7 tells us Jesus emptied Himself of His divine rights became not just a human, but a servant to humans dying on the cross.

Although He was rich in spirit, He became poor in Spirit (depending on The Father & Holy Spirit) **that we might become rich in spirit!**

Jesus was **totally** dependent on The Father and The Holy Spirit during His ministry on earth.

- After baptism The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus!
- After Jesus was in the wilderness 40 days being tempted angels came and ministered to Him.
- When Jesus returned from His wilderness experience, He came back in the power of The Holy Spirit!

Jesus knew He needed spiritual help to do the will of God, so do we!

Jesus could and did do all things through The Father by The Spirit!

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

*John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.***

Spiritual poverty is worse than economic poverty!!

America has become like the church of **Laodicea** (Rev 3:15-18)!

Revelation 3:15 I know what you have done, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot.

16 But since you are lukewarm and not hot or cold, I'm going to spit you out of my mouth.

17 You say, 'I'm rich. I'm wealthy. I don't need anything.' Yet, you do not realize that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

18 I advise you: Buy gold purified in fire from me so that you may be rich. Buy white clothes from me. Wear them so that you may keep your shameful, naked body from showing. Buy ointment to put on your eyes so that you may see.

Holy Spirit said to the church, I know what you have done, I know what you call ministry, and you are neither hot nor cold, saved or heathen, good or bad, neither following false doctrine nor living in The Truth!

You are lukewarm, indifferent and have no interest in changing lives, building The Kingdom or glorifying God.

You're just going through the motions there is enough preaching to attract the righteous and enough sin to keep the sinners.

The **Laodicean** church had become **lazy** because it had acquired property, wealth, and status.

It became content with its reputation and its ability to do business with the world!

It **stopped doing spiritual things** and therefore stopped being spiritual, became spiritually poor but didn't know it!

They thought their spirituality was in their performances, traditions, and their numbers.

Holy Spirit says they were **wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked!**

What does it mean to be wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked?

1. **Wretched** is being torn up from the floor up! Being worn out and fatigued from grievous labor. It's being exiled from your homeland and outcast with no where to go and no possessions.
2. **Miserable** is being in a state so bad you're pitied by all who see you! In a constant state of misery!
3. **Poor** in this sense is having no spiritual awareness or ability! No holiness, no righteousness, no truth, or knowledge of God!
4. **Blind** having the eyes of your understanding darkened, having no revelation, information, or impartation from God! (**Eph 1:18**)
5. **Naked** lacking the image and likeness of God, naked as Adam became when he sinned and lost the glory of God.

To be **spiritually naked** is to be **humiliated, exposed, helpless, vulnerable, defenseless, and ashamed!**

The church of Laodicea thought they were rich because they had money and abundance of things. But God said they were **poor!**