

THE BEATITUDES

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Are these instructions? Are they a method of how to be saved? Is this a step by step guide to being a Christian? Or...

Are they evidence? Are they the external visible effects of one who has been saved? Are they the outworking of Jesus Christ's inner workings?

Let's look at the text again and this time let's expand it and see how this is a progression of external evidence to the internal salvation of Jesus Christ.

The one who receives the favour of God, who God champions, advocates, supports, assists, aids, serves, satisfies are like this:

THEY ARE POOR IN SPIRIT

They recognise that they are in spiritual poverty, bankrupt and are helpless, inadequate to do anything to change this. They realise they need someone else to pay the price, to set them free. They recognise a need for a saviour. Now God can do something. Now God can change their citizenship. Now Christ can rule. They have dethroned themselves and now Christ can enter and sit on the throne.

THEY MOURN

Not just recognise what state they are in, but they own it. They feel the guilt and shame, the weight of their sins. I see the state they are in, and it deeply saddens them. I see now that I deserve death, I am not worthy to be saved. It is a weight that breaks their heart. Repentance, true repentance is now at work, and that which would crash and destroy is lifted off and now the Holy Spirit does his work of greatly strengthening and building what was weak and dead into something strong and alive.

THEY ARE MEEK

Why have they been fortified? So that in this strength they may now submit totally to God, emptying everything of themselves before God, both what they deem good and bad. Now they are Christ like, now they come into the inheritance of Christ - the whole earth is their inheritance. No more striving, no more one-upmanship. No more boasting in their self because their saviour owns it all.

THEY HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Now that they have realised they are empty, God can start to fill them with the knowledge of Himself. This has completed the transformation from death to life. Now they can be satisfied, were as before nothing could satisfy because nothing satisfies that which is dead. It is Christ and Christ alone that satisfies completely.

THEY ARE MERCIFUL

Mercy begets mercy. When the knowledge of God increases, the awareness of Gods mercy upon mercy for them, tenderises their heart and now they want to show the mercy they have received to others. They readily forgive and pass by peoples actions in the pursuit of their heart.

THEY ARE PURE IN HEART

God has become so central in their lives that everything else is secondary. Their very heart has been transformed and now everything has a God motive. They are united with Christ, in harmony with His heart beat. What the Father wills, is now their will.

THEY ARE PEACEMAKERS

Now that Gods heart is their heart, they want to share it with others. The desire to bring the heart of God to the heart of man and man to God. They see what God sees, the turmoil in people, the hurt, the blindness, the lost, the rebellious and know that only the peace of God will turn sorrows into dancing.

THEY ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE

They are now so deeply rooted in Christ and Christ in them, that no opposition will stop them. Nothing that man or Satan can do, would make them stop from advancing the kingdom of heaven. Whether persecution is to the church in general or to them personally, whether they are mocked or their reputation and character is questioned they will not be deterred, for they know that to see the kingdom of heaven advancing and feeling the pleasure of God on them is a reason to rejoice and be glad.

It is so clear that the beatitudes are not instructions but are the external evidence in the life of a Christian.