

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

IT DEPENDS...

From the Cradle to the Cross – Part 1

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MATTHEW 5:3

“BLESSED are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (NIV)

“God blesses those who realize their need for Him . . .” (NLT)

“. . . who recognize they are spiritually helpless . . .” (GW)

“. . . who depend only on HIM . . .” (CEV)

“. . . who know they have great spiritual needs . . .” (NCV)

“The Lord God blesses everyone who trusts Him and depends on Him.” Psalm 146:5 (CEV)

TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT” MEANS SPIRITUAL POVERTY

HOW DO I DO THIS?

1. I depend on God’s wisdom not mine.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in ALL you do, and He will direct your paths. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, respect the Lord and turn your back on evil.” Proverbs 3:5-7 (NLT)

“If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray and ask God, who gives it generously and graciously to all.” James 1:5

2. I depend on God’s strength, not mine.

“You bless all who depend on you for their strength.” Psalm 84:5(CEV)

“Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.” Isaiah 40:31 (TEV)

“I walk in the strength of the Lord.” Psalm 71:16a (LB)

“My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart. He is mine forever!” Psalm 73:26 (NLT)

3. I depend on God’s timing, not mine.

“I trust in you, O Lord. You are my God. My times are in your hands.” Psalm 31:14-15a

“God has set the right time for everything.” Ecclesiastes 3:11a (TEV)

“I am the Lord, and when it is time, I will make these things happen quickly.” Isaiah 60:22b (NCV)

“I trust the Lord God to save me, and I will wait for Him to answer my prayer.” Micah 7:7 (CEV)

4. I depend on God’s defense, not mine.

“God blesses and protects everyone who runs to Him.” Psalm 2:12 (CEV)

“I depend on God alone; I put my hope in Him. He alone protects and saves me; He is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God; He is my strong protector; He is my shelter!” Psalm 62:5-7 (TEV)

5. I depend on God’s wealth, not mine.

“And my God will supply all my needs from his abundant wealth because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.” Philippians 4:19

MY FIRST STEP IN EXPRESSING MY DEPENDENCE

“This is what happens in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old sin behind and when we came up out of the water, we entered into a new life of grace. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; and when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. We are raised to live a new life.” Romans 6:3-5 (Mes/NLT)