



JOYCE MEYER  
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# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

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*Sermon*  
*on the*  
**MOUNT**

**Teaching by Joyce Meyer**

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# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## The Development Of Character And Virtue

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

### I. To Have Power With God, We Must Know That Power Is God's Will For His Children.

- A. **Luke 6:19** – *And all the multitude were seeking to touch Him, for healing **power** was all the while going forth from Him and curing them all [saving them from severe illnesses or calamities].*
  - 1. **Power** (virtue)
  - 2. Jesus had so much **power** with God that it was continually flowing out of Him.
- B. **Luke 8:43-46** – Healing **power** went forth from Jesus and healed a woman with an issue of blood.
- C. **Luke 4:32** – *And they were amazed at His teaching, for His word was with authority and ability and weight and **power**.*
- D. **Luke 10:19** – The disciples were given **power**.
- E. **Acts 1:8** – All believers are given the hope of **power**.
- F. **Acts 10:38** (KJV) – *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with **power**: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil . . .*

1. The way to have power with God is: Believe you are supposed to have power and use it for the good of others.
  2. Many people seek power for wrong reasons. Instead of using it for the good of others, they use it to get what they want in life, not caring how they hurt and use others.
- G. **Luke 4:14** – . . . *Jesus went back **full of and under the power of the [Holy] Spirit into Galilee, and the fame of Him spread through the whole region round about.***
1. Many desire to be full of the power of the Holy Spirit, but they refuse to be **under** the power of the Holy Spirit.
- H. **Mark 9:1** – The kingdom of God comes in its **power**.
1. It is impossible for the kingdom of God to come without power.
  2. Religion often strips all the power out of the Gospel.
  3. **II Timothy 3:5** – *For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it . . .*
- I. **II Timothy 1:7** – God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **POWER**, love, and a sound mind.
- J. **Ephesians 1:19** – *And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His **power** in and for us who believe . . .*
1. Paul prayed for the church to know His power – not just those who believe in Jesus, but those who believe in the unlimited **POWER** of God that is available to them.
- K. We have power in prayer; power to heal the sick; power to cast out devils; power to live a holy, disciplined life; power for ministry; power to help hurting people; power to lift the downtrodden; and power to walk in the Fruit of the Spirit. We have **power, power, power**.

1. **We have power available. It is released IF we believe in it and develop the Christian virtues in our life that must be resident in us in order for virtue to flow out of us.**

## II. What Is Virtue?

A. There are seven references in Strong's Concordance to the word **virtue**.

1. Three of them are translated from the word *dunamis*, which means power.
2. Four of them are translated from a Greek word that means excellence.
3. **If there is no virtue (excellence of moral character) in us, no virtue (power) will flow from us.**

B. **Philippians 4:8** – If there be any virtue, think on these things.

1. Thinking on excellent things aids us in walking in the power of God.
2. Everything in God's economy is geared toward helping us walk in power with God and power over the enemy.
3. **I John 3:8** (KJV) – . . . *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

C. **II Peter 1:3** – He hath called us to glory and virtue.

1. Virtue is excellence – especially moral excellence or excellence of soul.
2. Glory is the manifestation of all the excellencies of God.
3. We see from this that we must have virtue to have glory. We cannot just have the glory.
4. **Romans 8:17** – If we are to share His glory, then we must share His suffering.

To develop moral excellence in all areas of life, one will always go through some suffering.

- D. **II Peter 1:5** – If we ever want to get to Christian love – which is the high call of every believer, the pinnacle at which we are to arrive – then we must somewhere along the way develop virtue (excellence of soul).
1. The Amplified Bible says virtue is resolution – that means we determine to do things right.

### III. The Beatitudes

- A. **Matthew 5:1-16** – Jesus taught the disciples about nine ways to develop Christian virtues in their lives – nine ways to be blessed, and nine ways to have power with God.
- B. **Beatitude** (defined/Webster's 1828) – Blessedness of the highest kind, consummate bliss, used of the joys of heaven. **The declaration of blessedness made by our Savior to particular virtues**
1. This blessedness that is promised is only attached to the virtues that are mentioned.

**IF THE VIRTUES ARE NOT DEVELOPED,  
THE BLESSEDNESS WON'T BE MANIFESTED.**

- C. **Blessed** (defined/Vine's) – To speak well of, to cause to prosper, to make happy, or to bestow blessings on.
1. Defined from the Amplified Bible:
    - a. Happy
    - b. To be envied
    - c. Spiritually prosperous
    - d. With life – joy
    - e. Satisfied in God (Contentment is very valuable.)

- f. Blithesome (gay, merry, cheerful)
    - g. Revelation of grace
- D. Regardless of your circumstances
  - 1. Happiness is not in “IF ONLY.”
    - a. If only I was married
    - b. If only I had more money or a better job
    - c. If only I owned my own home or had a new car
    - d. If only I felt better physically
  - 2. Happiness is found living for God, living in obedience to Him, and dwelling in His presence. True happiness is found in the center of God’s will for you as an individual. True happiness is found in developing Christ-like character and godly virtues.
  - 3. Happiness is not a question of “having or not having.”
  - 4. It is a question of the attitudes we have in life.
- E. We might call the beatitudes the **BE-HAPPY ATTITUDES** because we will never be truly happy without them.
- F. We must develop the Christian virtues in order to have real power with God.

#### IV. Character

- A. Character (defined) – Behavior, personality, and the collection of traits that form the individual nature of a person or a thing.
- B. **Jeremiah 9:24-25** – We must know God’s character and work with Him to see it developed in our own lives.

1. Jesus came as our example and standard of living. He said, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.”
- C. **Power begins with the Name of Jesus on our lips and the nature of Jesus in our hearts.**
- D. **Many that are troubled by demons seek to learn more about spiritual warfare. What they actually need is the nature of Jesus developed in their personalities.**
1. **I FIND THE SWEETER I BECOME, THE LESS TROUBLE I HAVE WITH THE DEVIL.**
    - a. **James 4:7** – Submit yourself to God; resist the devil, and he will flee.
    - b. **We always resist the trials the devil brings, but I believe we are to resist acting like the devil first.**
- E. What are some of the outstanding things about God’s character?
1. He is good – even to those who do not deserve it.
  2. He is longsuffering, patient, merciful, and kind.
  3. He is forgiving. Not only does He forgive our sins, He also forgets them.
  4. He always keeps His Word.
  5. He is faithful.
  6. He is holy and all righteous, never compromises, always speaks and walks in truth.
- F. We are instructed to imitate God.
1. **Ephesians 5:1-5**
  2. **Ephesians 4:1-3**

- G. It is time to stop arguing about doctrine and start developing character and virtue.
1. **Hebrews 5:11 - 6:3** – Let us go on to advanced teaching.
  2. I believe Paul considered the development of **God's character** and the development of **moral excellence** (virtue) as advanced teaching.







# The Poor In Spirit Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

## I. Beatitudes

- A. **Matthew 5:1-16** – A declaration of blessedness made by Jesus to particular virtues.
- B. **Virtue** (defined/Webster's 1828) – Strength from straining, stretching, extending. Bravery, valor; **moral goodness**; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from moral vice; virtue must be distinguished from religion. Religion is often seen in outward acts only, whereas virtue is a matter of the heart. Virtue is nothing but voluntary obedience to the truth for the sincere love of God. A particular moral excellence; as the virtue of temperance, of chastity, of charity. Acting power; power; legal power or authority.
  - 1. We see that virtue is moral goodness and power that can only result from the moral goodness.
- C. To be blessed is a wonderful thing. We should be willing to pay any price to live in the full blessings of God.
  - 1. **Blessed** (Amplified) – Happy, to be envied, spiritually prosperous, with life-joy and satisfaction, blithesome; a revelation of grace regardless of circumstances.

## II. The Poor In Spirit

- A. **Matthew 5:3** (Message) – *You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.*
  - 1. **John 3:30** – *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

2. John was poor in spirit (humble); otherwise, he would have struggled to keep his position.
  - a. People with a pride problem always need a position or a title. Their worth is in what they do; they don't know how to simply "be."
  - b. John was not full of himself.

B. The poor in spirit rate themselves insignificant.

1. This does not mean we have a bad opinion of ourselves.
2. **Romans 12:3** – Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought to.
3. Rate your ability with sober judgment according to the grace of God.

God's grace (power) has enabled us to do what we do.
4. Don't think more highly of yourself in the area of spiritual gifts. One gift is not above another in God's eyes. We all need each other.
  - a. If you are a missionary, don't act like everyone should be one.
  - b. If you are a worship leader, don't act like worship is the only thing that exists.
  - c. If you are a Bible teacher, don't act like the Word is all there is.
  - d. If you have a gift in the area of healing, don't act like healing is everything.
5. We should be focused on our call in order to fulfill it. But we must also realize that other people have calls, dreams, visions, or gifts; and they should be respected.

6. Strictly avoid competition and comparison. Both of these traits do not belong to those who are “poor in spirit.”
- C. **Philippians 2:3-5** – Let each regard the other as better than and superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourself]. Be more concerned for one another than for yourself. Let Jesus be your example in humility.
1. This attitude is advised for our protection, not for our mistreatment.
- I Peter 5:6** – Humble yourself and God will exalt you.
2. Everyone is advised to have the same attitude. If this were the case, imagine what a glorious place the world would be.

### III. The Dangers Of Self-Exaltation

- A. **Matthew 23:12** (KJV) – *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*
- B. **Obadiah 1:4** (KJV) – *Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.*
- C. **Proverbs 17:19** (KJV) – *... he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.*
1. (Amplified) – *... he who raises high his gateway and is boastful and arrogant invites destruction.*
- D. **Proverbs 25:6** (KJV) – *Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men . . .*
1. People who seek to exalt themselves always try to get around people they think are important – spiritual leaders, the boss, etc.
- E. The folly of thinking “I’M AS GOOD AS YOU ARE”

1. I have had two different people who worked for me who had this attitude, and I encountered the same problem with both of them.
  - a. They took liberties with me that should not have been taken.
  - b. Said things to me that were disrespectful
  - c. Publicly challenged my decisions
  - d. Publicly corrected me
  - e. Were unable to serve me in any way

Example: If I asked them to carry something, they either complained or the look on their face told me they did not like it.

2. **Aren't we all created equal in God's sight? YES!! But it is dangerous to get an attitude that says you're no better than me. That may be true, but it is unhealthy for me to think that way.**
3. One of these two people never could be promoted; the other had to be demoted.

God only promotes us after we humble ourselves.  
Pushing ourselves forward is the wrong thing to do.

F. **Proverbs 25:7** (KJV) – *For better it is that it be said . . . Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince . . .*

1. Those who are not poor in spirit always try to get with spiritual leaders, the boss, or those they deem important. They are trying to promote themselves, but many times they get embarrassed.

#### IV. The Danger Of Conceit

A. **Proverbs 3:7** (KJV) – *Be not wise in thine own eyes . . .*

B. **Proverbs 26:12** – Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

C. **Romans 12:16** (KJV) – . . . *Be not wise in your own conceits.*

1. If a person is not poor in spirit, he cannot adapt and adjust to others.
2. If a person is not poor in spirit, he cannot live in harmony with others.

Peace is not possible without humility.

D. **Conceit** (defined/Webster's 1828) – Conception; that which is conceived, imagined, or formed in the mind; idea; thought; image; opinion; fantastic notion.

1. **If one's thoughts, opinions, or mental image of themselves are not rooted in the grace of God, they will always meet with failure sooner or later.**

E. **I Corinthians 8:2** (KJV) – *And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.*

F. The conceited man wants to tell you what he knows, who he knows, where he has been, and what he has done.

1. **John 7:18** (KJV) – *He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory . . .*

## V. Examples Of Pride

A. **Pharaoh: Exodus 5:2** (KJV) – *And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.*

1. Pharaoh was destroyed.

- B. **Naaman: II Kings 5:11** – *But Naaman was angry and went away and said, Behold, I thought he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over me and remove the leprosy.*
1. Naaman’s attitude almost lost him his miracle. He changed his mind just in time.
  2. His attitude was probably what caused the leprosy to start with.
- C. **Uzziah: II Chronicles 26:16** (KJV) – *But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense . . .*
1. Read portions of **chapter 26**. Uzziah was doing good; but the more God blessed him, the worse his attitude became.
  2. He died with leprosy.
- D. **Haman: Esther 3:5** (KJV) – *And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.*
1. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.
  2. Those who are not poor in spirit always want others to bow to them.
    - a. Bow to their will, their ways, their choices, opinions and desires.
    - b. Satan wanted Jesus to bow, and Satan fell due to pride.
- E. **Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4:30** (KJV) – *The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?*
1. God promoted him while he was humble, and then had to demote him due to pride.

2. He lost his mind and sunk so low that he lived in the fields and ate grass with the oxen for seven years until he returned to his right mind and humbled himself.

F. **Herod: Acts 12:21-23** – He was smote by an angel and eaten of worms because he did not give God the glory.

1. **Isaiah 42:8** – My glory (credit due) I will not give to another.
2. God is very definite about this.

**How many examples must we see in God's Word to understand that only those who are poor in spirit will be blessed and have power with God?**

3. **Those who are full of themselves only end up with themselves. They have no blessings and no power, just themselves.**
4. **Matthew 5:3** (Message) – *You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.*







# Those Who Mourn Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. I'm Really Hurting, But I Am Going To Bounce Back.

- A. Often we are asked, “Why do bad things happen to good people?”
  - 1. That is a wrong question!
- B. We should ask, “What happens to good people when bad things happen to them?”
  - 1. They grow spiritually.
  - 2. They bounce back.
  - 3. They become better not bitter.
  - 4. They don't count what they have lost – they count what they have left.
  - 5. They continue obeying God no matter what.
  - 6. They experience the comfort of God (**Matthew 5:4**).
- C. Wrong questions always bring no answer.
  - 1. Asking wrong questions leads to reasoning, which opens the door for confusion.
- D. **Matthew 5:4** (Message) – *You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.*

1. Our natural inclination would not be to feel we are blessed when we have lost something. However, it is often things we cling to that separate us from a deeper relationship with God.
2. Frequently in life we discover that what seems to be the worst tragedy was used by God to bring tremendous good into our lives.
3. **Genesis 50:20** – You thought evil against me, but God meant it for good.

## II. The Folly Of Self-Pity

- A. We can receive the comfort of God if we handle ourselves biblically in trials. Self-pity does not comfort us – it makes us increasingly more miserable.
  1. **Genesis 37:35** – All Jacob’s children tried to comfort him concerning Joseph, but HE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED.
- B. **You can be pitiful or powerful, but you cannot be both.**
- C. Self-pity is rooted in fear. We feel sorry for ourselves because we are afraid we will never get our desires met. For example: We will never be loved, never be promoted, never feel better physically, never have more money, etc.
- D. Ways to recognize self-pity:
  1. Self-pity always wants to blame someone for its troubles. Be it man or God, someone must be blamed.
  2. Self-pity is always negative and pessimistic. It feeds on the assumption of more bad news.
 

It is so sure things will be bad, that it almost resents anyone trying to be cheerful. If someone says, “Oh, it won’t be that bad,” self-pity becomes defensive.
  3. Self-pity wants sympathy. It is usually found talking about the problem.

4. Self-pity is always much worse off than anyone else. If you say you didn't sleep last night, the person filled with self-pity will say they have not slept in a month. If you have a headache, they have had one for a week.
5. Self-pity often refuses any advice that will help them get out of their situation.

They think nobody understands them or what they are going through.

6. Self-pity makes us insensitive to what others are going through.
7. **Selfishness and self-pity go together.** Self-pity is an act of selfishness – it gets us turned in on ourselves instead of reaching out to others.
8. Self-pity always wants to withdraw, be alone, not talk, stay home, etc.
9. Self-pity is also governed by self-righteousness. The self-righteous person always has the attitude, “This should not have happened to me,” or “I don't deserve this,” or “How could this happen to me?”
  - a. If the same thing happened to someone else, they would not think much of it; but if it happens to them, it is unfair and unjust. For others, it is just part of life or the way things are; but for the self-righteous person, it is totally unfair.
  - b. One man said he was in a trial and cried out to God saying, “How could this happen to me?” God answered, “Why not you? It happens to other people, doesn't it?”

E. **I Peter 5:9** – . . . *the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.*

### III. The Man Who Intends To Have Power With God Keeps A Positive Attitude.

- A. **Romans 8:28** – All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.
1. I have heard my husband quote that Scripture a thousand times throughout the years. Each time we have difficulty; it is the first thing he says.
- B. **I Corinthians 10:13** – He never allows more to come on us than what we can bear; but with the temptation, He always provides a way out.
1. Any time I tell Dave, “I cannot take any more of this!” he always reminds me of this Scripture. If he doesn’t, God does.
- C. Dave says, “I may be going through a difficult time, but at least I have the comfort of knowing God is with me.”
1. **Psalm 91:15** – . . . *I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him . . .*
  2. **Psalm 34:19** (KJV) – *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*
  3. **Isaiah 43:2** – When you go through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.
- D. **Daniel 3:17-27** – The positive man remembers the fourth man in the fiery furnace.
1. He reminds himself that **THIS, TOO, SHALL PASS.**

### IV. The Man Who Intends To Have Power With God Looks For The Deeper Purpose.

- A. **Malachi 3:2-3** – He is like a refiner’s fire and fullers’ soap. He will purify us like gold and silver, that we may offer offerings in righteousness.

1. He works in our lives to change our behavior, attitudes, thoughts, words, and motives. He changes our desires. He changes the entire man.
- B. What does your trial have to do with God changing you?
1. He may use the thing that seems bad to work something good.
  2. If you have been too independent, He may allow a trial big enough that even you cannot handle it – and you now have to lean on Him totally.
  3. **The thing you lost has caused you to embrace the one you should have been seeking long ago.**
- C. **Job 23:10** – *But He knows the way that I take . . . When He has tried me, I shall come forth as refined gold . . .*
- D. **I Peter 4:12** – *Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality, as though something strange (unusual and alien to you and your position) were befalling you.*
1. We never like realizing that there may be things in us that are not the quality God can use.
- V. **The Man Who Intends To Have Power With God Learns To Receive The Comfort Of God.**
- A. **Psalms 23:5** – *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over.*
1. This tells us that we can be blessed right in the middle of severe difficulty.
- B. **John 16:7** – Certainly God wants us to be comforted; He sent us **THE COMFORTER** (the Holy Spirit).
- C. **Jeremiah 31:13** – *Then will the maidens rejoice in the dance, and the young men and old together. For I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and make them rejoice after their sorrow.*

1. The comfort of God should be very valuable to us. I don't think we understand its value.

**Matthew 5:4** (KJV) – *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

2. It sounds as if it is worth mourning, just to experience the comfort!!
3. **Jeremiah 31:15-17** – Rachel refused to be comforted for her children. God said, “There is hope for your future,” but she refused to let it comfort her.

D. **II Corinthians 1:3-4** – God is the Source of all comfort. God comforts us in all of our troubles, so we can comfort others who are hurting.

1. We can see from this Scripture how destructive self-pity is. We can only give away what we have in us.

E. **II Corinthians 7:4-7** – Paul had many trials, but he had learned how to receive God's comfort.

1. **Pray for God to comfort you in your tribulations.**
2. **If He is not ready to deliver you from it, you may as well be comforted in it.**

## VI. Receiving The Comfort Of God When You Have Fallen Into Sin

A. **Isaiah 61:1-3** – Jesus came to comfort all who mourn.

1. **Verse 1** states that Jesus came to open the prison doors of all who were bound. The major reference here is being bound to sin.
2. This proves He is willing to comfort those who are mourning over their sin.

B. Instead of running from God when we sin, we should run **TO** Him for comfort.

1. **It is right to grieve over our sins – to admit them and repent. But it is also right to receive the comfort of God; otherwise, we are never strengthened to go on.**
- C. **Psalm 32:1-6** – Blessed is the man who has forgiveness of his sins.
1. **Verse 2** – Once we are finished deceiving ourselves and have repented, God is more than ready to forgive, forget, and press on.
- D. Some people make big mistakes. They ruin a marriage, they ruin a ministry, they lose a job through wrong actions, they get an abortion, etc.
1. King David made some big mistakes, but he received comfort from God and went on with the rest of his life.
  2. Refusing to forgive yourself won't fix the situation.
  3. Refusing to be comforted is just a fleshly (humanistic) way of trying to punish yourself for your sins.
  4. If God did not want you to be comforted, He would not call Himself the Comforter.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED!**







# The Meek Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. Meekness

- A. **Matthew 5:5** (KJV) – *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*
1. The meek inherit. **Are you a laborer or an inheritor?**
  2. The proud always try to make something happen themselves; the meek only move when God moves.
- B. **Matthew 5:5** (Message) – *You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.*
1. The meek person is blessed because he is content. He has power over the devil because he is not disturbed whether he is being abased or abounding.  
  
**The blessedness of contentment is almost too wonderful to be explained.**
  2. **Philippians 4:11-12** – Paul learned how to be content. That must mean he learned how to be meek.
- C. What kinds of things cannot be bought?
1. Peace

2. Joy
  3. Satisfaction deep in your soul
  4. A sense of being right with God
- D. The person who is meek (content with himself) has all the blessings that cannot be bought.
1. Our problem is usually that we try to buy with “our works” all the things that only God can give.
  2. Example: We should have a meek attitude and simply say, “I am what I am by God’s grace. I cannot be anything else unless He helps me. I don’t need to compete with other people or compare myself to them. I am satisfied with God’s creation.”
  3. Just try to imagine the blessed life of a person who feels right about themselves, right with God, and content with their life.
- E. The meek person accepts his life as it comes. He doesn’t fight with everything that is not the way he would like it to be.
1. Recently I was feeling frustrated because nothing in my day was going the way I had planned. God spoke to me as I was going out the front door: “Joyce, learn to take life as it comes.”
  2. This does not mean that we never resist wrong things. But it does mean that **we don’t waste our energies trying to do something about something we cannot do anything about.**
- F. **MEEKNESS IS POWER!!**
1. The world thinks it is weakness, but Vine’s Dictionary of Greek Words states that it is “strength under control.”
  2. **Matthew 26:48-54** – Jesus shows meekness by not retaliating. Only a meek person can walk in the full will of God.

## II. A Meek Person Will Allow God To Be Their Vindicator.

- A. **Romans 12:19** – *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath . . .*
- B. **Hebrews 10:30** – Vengeance is Mine, says the Lord.
- C. Only a meek person can refrain from retaliating or trying to vindicate themselves.
  - 1. A meek person does not even feel the need to defend himself.
  - 2. Jesus was constantly being accused of something, and He never defended Himself.

**Matthew 27:12** – *But when the charges were made against Him by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer.*

- D. **It takes real power to not retaliate and try to vindicate yourself. It takes real power to not defend yourself when accused.**

## III. A Meek Person Handles Correction Graciously.

- A. **Proverbs 15:10** – *There is severe discipline for him who forsakes God's way; and he who hates reproof will die [physically, morally, and spiritually].*
- B. **Proverbs 29:1** – *He who, being often reprovved, hardens his neck shall suddenly be destroyed – and that without remedy.*
- C. **Proverbs 1:7** – *. . . fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline.*
- D. We despise being found out.
  - 1. God discovering our sin is a wonderful blessing, but we think being found out is awful. We like to think we are getting away with something.

2. We resist correction from God directly or from God through man. Correction is the only thing that helps us get from where we are to where we need to be.
3. **Lamentations 4:22** – *The punishment of your iniquity will be accomplished and completed, O Daughter of Zion; [the Lord] will no more carry you away or keep you in exile. But He will inspect and punish your iniquity and guilt, O Daughter of Edom; **He will uncover your sins.***

E. Jonah was found out.

1. **Jonah 1:1-10** – I am sure Jonah thought he was safe when he got on the ship to Tarshish. But God sent a storm to correct him, and to let him know that He knew right where he was. God even told the other men on the ship what Jonah’s sin was.
2. We don’t like it when God reveals our sin to others and uses them to correct us.
3. We ask, “God, Why couldn’t You deal with me Yourself?” He probably tried to many times, but we were not listening!!
4. Being found out is not a question of **IF**; it is a question of **WHEN!**
5. The good thing is, God sometimes points out our sin before judgment comes. It is the best thing that can happen. It gives us time to repent and avoid a lot of suffering.

F. Receiving correction graciously means no pouting and no self-pity.

1. **Hebrews 12:5-8, 12** – Stop pouting around about correction and receive it.
2. We prove our true sonship when we receive correction.

3. It bothers me if my grown children don't want me telling them anything. I want them to know that I love them and would never tell them anything that I did not think was for their benefit. **I want them to trust me.**

G. What if someone tries to correct us and they are wrong?

1. The people who tried to correct Jesus were all wrong, but He still did not try to convince them He was right.
2. I am not suggesting we allow people to abuse us, but we don't have to spend our lives trying to convince others of our character.
3. ***I Peter 5:6 (KJV) – Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time...***

**God will see to it in due time.**

H. Only a secure person can become meek!

1. People who are struggling for self-worth will always be trying to prove something to others. The truly meek person is not concerned about what is right with him or wrong with him – he simply knows who he is in Christ!

#### **IV. A Meek Person Is Submissive To Authority.**

A. **Romans 13:1-3** – Submit to authority and save yourself a lot of trouble.

B. If we will not submit to delegated authority, we will not submit to God either.

1. If a person is rebellious, it will show up in every relationship.

C. **I Samuel 15:23** – The sin of rebellion is like witchcraft.

1. Witchcraft operates on the principle of control.

2. Anyone who is rebellious against authority is seeking control.

**V. Seek Meekness.**

- A. **Zephaniah 2:3** – Humility (meekness) must be sought ardently.
  1. It will not be developed unless a person wants it with all of his heart.
- B. **Ephesians 4:1-3** – Let your behavior be humble, gentle, and meek.
- C. **Colossians 3:12** – Put on behavior marked by patience, long-suffering and gentle ways (meekness).

Just as we must “**put on**” our clothing, we must “**put on**” these Christian virtues.

- D. **Matthew 11:28-30** – Jesus said, “I am gentle, meek, humble, and lowly . . . not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing.”
- E. People that are not meek are hard people.
  1. Hard to get along with
  2. Hard to keep happy
  3. Hard to please
  4. Hard to be comfortable with
- F. **Ask God to work meekness in your character. It is one of the Christian virtues that will make you powerful with God.**





# The Righteous Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. Blessed Are Those Who Hunger And Thirst For Righteousness.

Beatitudes (defined) – Blessings attached to specific Christian virtues.

A. **Matthew 5:6** – They will be **COMPLETELY** satisfied.

B. Two kinds of righteousness:

1. Being right – The righteousness that is imputed to us through the new birth

### II Corinthians 5:21

2. Doing right – Righteousness seen through our choices, words, thoughts, and behavior

C. “Hunger and thirst for it” refers to intensity with which one must desire righteousness.

1. A hungry or thirsty person will do anything to eat or drink.

2. If we seek righteousness with the same ardent zeal, we will be blessed.

D. **Matthew 5:6** (Message) – *You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.*

E. The rewards of righteousness and unrighteousness

1. **II Peter 2:13** – Being destined to receive punishment is the reward for unrighteousness.
2. **Matthew 10:41** – *He who receives . . . a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.*
3. **Proverbs 11:18** – He who sows righteousness in every area, shall have a sure reward (permanent and satisfying).
4. **Romans 6:19-22** – When you were not righteous, your only reward was punishment; but now the reward of righteousness is holiness.

Holiness is a wonderful reward in itself. **We can enjoy being completely satisfied.**

II. The Narrow Gate

- A. **Matthew 7:13-14** – Those seeking righteousness will have to avoid the broad path and enter through the narrow gate.
- B. Entering through the narrow gate means there is no room for all of our fleshly baggage.
- C. **II Timothy 2:3-4** – No first class soldier gets entangled with the world or the world's ways.
  1. We must live a separated life.
  2. **Leviticus 15:31** – Separate Israel from all their uncleanness.
  3. **Numbers 6:1-8** – Those who intended to serve God in a special way had to vow a vow and back it up with living a separated life.
  4. **II Corinthians 6:17** – Come out from among them and separate yourselves from them.

- D. **Hebrews 12:1** – Let us strip off every encumbrance and all that clings to and entangles us.
  - 1. **Entering through the narrow gate will only be accomplished by those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.**
- E. Those who love the world will not enter through the narrow gate.
  - 1. **II Timothy 4:10** – Demas traveled with Paul in ministry. Demas left and went back to Thessalonica because he loved the world.

### III. The Value Of Imputed Righteousness

- A. **Romans 4:22-25** (KJV) – **Imputed** also means credited to.
- B. **Isaiah 64:6** (KJV) – . . . *all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags . . .*
  - 1. We must have His righteousness; ours won't do us any good at all.
- C. If we never believe we are righteous (in Christ), we will never do righteousness.
  - 1. We cannot produce something we don't have.

**I MUST HAVE IT TO DO IT.**
- D. A person cannot mature and grow up unless they understand imputed righteousness.
  - 1. **Hebrews 5:13**
- E. A person who has revelation about imputed (credited) righteousness is blessed because they live free from guilt and condemnation.
- F. He is blessed because he does not have to waste years in self-rejection, self-hatred, self-punishment, self-analysis, and an endless search for self-worth.

1. He does not have to impress people, compete, compare, or strive to climb the ladder of success.

He already knows he is a success inwardly; and his outward success will develop as a fruit of his confidence, which is found in Christ.

2. **Philippians 3:3** – Put no confidence in the flesh – glory, exult, and pride yourself in Christ Jesus.

G. When a person knows how to wear his breastplate of righteousness, it is one of the ways he is protected from principalities and powers.

1. **Ephesians 6:12-14**
2. The Living Bible says, “Put on the breastplate of God’s approval.”

#### IV. Be (Uncompromisingly) Righteous

A. Don’t backslide in doing things right.

1. **II Peter 2:21-22** – You’re better off to have never known righteousness, than to experience it and then turn back to sin. It is like a dog returning to its own vomit, or a sow that has been washed, wallowing in the mud again.

B. When we compromise, we do less than what we know we should do.

1. Sometimes it’s only a small compromise, but it is nonetheless a compromise and has the same effect.

C. Compromise is one of the main causes of a guilty conscience, which makes a person miserable. **The compromising person is not blessed.**

D. **Psalm 11:7** – *For the Lord is [rigidly] righteous, He loves righteous deeds . . .*

E. **Psalm 5:12** – *For You, Lord, will bless the [uncompromisingly] righteous [him who is upright and in right standing with You]; as with a shield You will surround him with goodwill (pleasure and favor).*

1. **WOW! What a promise!**

F. The righteous person has peace.

**Psalm 85:10** – . . . *righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

G. **Proverbs 15:9** – God loves those who **pursue** righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation).

1. Pursue righteousness in all your relationships with people.

2. **Treat people right.**

**THOSE WHO ARE RIGHTEOUS  
HAVE POWER WITH GOD!**







# The Merciful Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. **Anyone Can Be Legalistic And Mean, But Holy Ghost Power Is Required To Show Mercy.**

A. **Matthew 9:13** – *Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy . . . not sacrifice.*

1. When we sin, God wants to give us mercy – He does not want our sacrifices.

2. When others do us wrong or make mistakes, God wants us to give them mercy – not try to make them pay.

B. Retaliation is part of the old man, but we are NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST.

C. **Matthew 10:8** – Freely you have received, freely give.

D. **Mercy** (defined/Webster's) – Kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness.

Mercy does not just try to do what is fair. Mercy must be extravagant – it must go beyond reason.

E. **Matthew 5:7** (KJV) – *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

## II. We Reap What We Sow!

- A. **Luke 6:36-38** – Be merciful and forgiving. Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Give, and it shall be given unto you. With the same measure you use when you confer benefits on others, it will be measured back to you.
- B. **Matthew 5:7** (Message) – *You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'carefull,' [JM: full of care for others] you will find yourselves cared for.*
1. It is a good thing to care about others – what is happening to them, how they feel, how hard life is for them, etc.
  2. The selfish people do not care about anyone except themselves; or if they do care for others, they don't care as much for them as they do for themselves.
- C. **Mercy sees the why behind the what!**
1. Legalism or hardness deals with facts only.
  2. But mercy sees the heart.
  3. **I am glad God saw beyond my exterior, aren't you?**
- D. A merciful person has come face to face with the hard facts about their own wretchedness. They know without God's mercy they would be consumed.
1. **Lamentations 3:22-23**
  2. **They are glad to give mercy to others because they know before the day is out they will need some themselves.**
- E. **Hebrews 5:1-2** – God chooses those for ministry who know they need mercy themselves and are prepared to give it to others.

### III. Developing A Merciful Attitude

- A. **Romans 12:8** – Some have the gift of mercy.
1. Much of what they do and many of their decisions are motivated by mercy.
  2. We have mercy-motivated people in our office, and they will give away the ministry if we don't watch them.
  3. They want us to pay bills for anyone who calls in with a sad story.
- B. We want to help people, but we also know that we must use wisdom.
1. Giving to some people hurts them rather than helps them.
  2. **Proverbs 1:3** – *Receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness . . .*
  3. A mercy-motivated person may have to DISCIPLINE themselves not to just follow their feelings.  
  
“I feel so sorry for them” is not always the best answer.
- C. Give your children mercy, but don't fail to correct them. Be merciful, but also teach them that there are results for persistent behavior.
- D. What about those who don't have the gift of mercy?
1. They must work with God to develop a merciful attitude.
  2. **James 2:13** – Mercy triumphs over judgment.
  3. **I would rather be guilty of being too merciful than being too judgmental.**
  4. **Colossians 3:12** is a great Scripture to meditate on until it becomes revelation to you.

It says to “put on mercy.”

**E.** If you're seeking power in your life or ministry – realize that God won't give you power to be mean to people.

1. **Acts 10:38** – See how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power; Who went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were oppressed of the devil.

**F.** I try to be merciful to people who work for me when they make mistakes.

1. Even expensive mistakes
2. I had a housekeeper who destroyed my kitchen with my pressure cooker.
  - a. The kitchen was already destroyed; there was no point in destroying her with it.
  - b. We must think how we would feel in a similar situation.
3. I have other people who take care of my clothes. Sometimes they scorch them in ironing, or even melt the material with an iron that is too hot. Sometimes a favorite outfit has been washed that could only be dry cleaned, etc.
  - a. **I have to remember that people are more important than things.**
  - b. **If I want to have power in the pulpit, I cannot be unmerciful in my private life.**

**G.** **John 12:47** – Jesus came to save, not to judge.

1. We cannot help people, not even in prayer, until all judgment is turned over to “The Judge.”

2. A woman who was called as an armor-bearer for a certain ministry couple was having trouble not judging them for all the faults she saw after getting to know them more personally. God told her, “I did not call you to judge them, but I called you to help them.”
  3. Why do we have such a hard time leaving people in God’s hands?
    - a. Do you suppose it is because we don’t trust Him?
    - b. Don’t we believe God can convict them of their faults?
- H. I want to live out **Psalm 23:6** in all my relationships.
1. *Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life . . .*
  2. God does this for me, and I want to do it for others.
  3. I decide to do it for others!

#### IV. Examples Of Mercy In The Bible

- A. **Genesis 13:1-17** – Abraham showed Lot mercy, and God gave him power to prosper.
- B. **Genesis 50:20-22** – Joseph showed his brothers mercy, and he lived as a wealthy, powerful man until he was 110 years old.
  1. Joseph learned to be forgiving and merciful during the years he was in prison.
- C. **Acts 7:54-60** – Stephen showed mercy on those who were stoning him.
  1. This act showed his character; it showed he had developed Christian virtues.

2. **Acts 6:2-8** – Stephen was said to be a man full of the Holy Ghost with **attested character** and a good reputation. He was filled with wisdom and was a hard worker.

He also had **power** to work great miracles among the people.

**THE MERCIFUL HAVE POWER WITH GOD.**





# The Pure In Heart Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. Keep The Channel Open.

Beatitudes (defined) – Blessings attached to specific Christian virtues.

A. **Matthew 5:8** – *Blessed . . . are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!*

1. Hear from God.
2. Enjoy His manifest presence.
3. Recognize His leading.
4. **Matthew 5:8** (Message) – *You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.*

B. In every situation they will find faith to carry them through to victory.

C. When the heart is not pure, faith is hindered.

1. **Do you ever have any trouble having faith or hearing from God? Do you wonder why you cannot feel His presence?**
2. Many people are trying to serve God with blockages in their hearts.

D. What kinds of things can block our faith?

1. Negative emotions  
  
For example: Anger, depression, discouragement, self-pity, etc.
2. Unforgiveness, bitterness, or resentment
3. Offense
4. Judgment toward others
5. Murmuring, complaining, grumbling, or faultfinding
6. Deep dark secrets about yourself that you fear will be discovered
7. Any kind of fear
8. Being bitter toward God because you feel your prayers have not been answered
9. Example: Leonardo da Vinci – this painter was visited by children. One child accidentally knocked his canvas over; he became very angry and ran them off. He discovered he couldn't paint the face of Jesus until the blockage was removed.

E. Faith isn't intellect – it is instinct or a knowing inside that everything will work out all right. Faith is a force that comes out of your spirit (heart). Therefore, **if the heart that faith flows through isn't pure, faith will be hindered.**

F. **Titus 1:15** – Unto the pure in heart, all things are pure.

1. When a person is pure in heart, they are not suspicious and judgmental.

G. **I Timothy 1:5** – Our purpose should be love, which springs from a pure heart and a good (clear) conscience and sincere faith.

## II. Motives Are Of The Utmost Importance.

A. **Psalm 24:3-4** – *Who shall go up into the mountain of the Lord? . . . He who has **clean hands** and **a pure heart** . . .*

1. **Doing the right thing is of no value unless it is done with a pure heart.**

B. We may perform right actions, yet with an impure heart (with wrong motives):

1. We can give to others to buy their favor or friendship instead of giving to them just to bless them.

2. Flattering people to gain something for ourselves instead of giving sincere compliments

3. Doing good works to gain God's approval

We should do good works because we love God  
– not to get Him to love us.

4. Worshiping God while our hearts are far from Him

5. Acting like we are helping someone make a certain decision for their benefit; when in reality, we are trying to control them for our benefit.

C. **I Corinthians 3:13-15** – Our works will become plainly known for what they truly are.

1. Many will lose their reward because their works were done with wrong motives.

D. God always knows the **why** behind the **what!**

1. **Matthew 7:20-23** – They did good works, but their motives were wrong.

2. **Acts 8:15-21** – Simon wanted the power of the Holy Ghost for wrong reasons. He was **money minded** and may have thought he could turn this blessing into a profit-making business.
3. **Matthew 16:21-24** – Jesus saw right through Peter. Peter pretended concern for Jesus; but actually, his real concern was for himself.

Peter may have been deceived. He may have had himself convinced that his concern was for Jesus. **The person who is deceived does not know he is deceived.**

4. **Luke 12:2-3** – *Nothing is [so closely] covered up that it will not be revealed, or hidden that it will not be known.*

E. Some prayers are not answered due to impure motives.

1. **James 4:2b-3** – You fail to receive because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives.
2. Example: God once told me that if women prayed sincerely for their unsaved husbands more of them would be saved. But many pray for their husband’s salvation so their lives will be better – not due to real concern for his soul.

F. **Jeremiah 17:9** – The heart is deceitful above all else, who can know his own heart and mind.

1. We must learn to sincerely commune with our own hearts. Only then will we become practiced in recognizing our true motives.
  - a. **Psalm 77:6** – David said, “with mine own heart I commune, and my spirit searches.”
  - b. **Psalm 4:4** – Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be silent.

2. Only then will we know:

- a. If we did a good work to be well thought of or to be seen rather than truly doing it unto God
- b. If we gave to someone for appreciation and gratitude, or if we gave out of a pure heart because of love

**We must learn to give with absolutely no strings attached.**

- c. When we do something nice for someone and then they won't do what we would like them to do, our attitude tells us very quickly if we blessed them with no strings attached.

### III. The Truth Often Hurts, But It Makes Us Free.

- A. It is difficult to face truth about ourselves.
  - 1. To say, "My motive in this situation was all wrong" is not an easy thing on the flesh.
- B. Hidden sin keeps us trapped in sin, but bringing sin out into the light destroys its hold on us.
  - 1. **James 5:16** – Confess your faults to one another that you may be healed and restored spiritually.
- C. **Proverbs 28:13** (KJV) – *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper. . .*
- D. **Numbers 32:23** – . . . *be sure your sin will find you out.*
- E. **Psalm 51:6** (KJV) - . . . *thou desirest truth in the inward parts. . .*
  - 1. David had been hiding his sin, but it was eating away at him. **We can ignore sin, but sin does not ignore us.**

2. **Psalm 32** – We see how hidden sin was eating away at David’s life, and what a change he experienced when he faced truth.
- F. **Psalm 85:10** (KJV) – *Mercy and truth are met together . . .*
1. When we come to truth, we will find mercy from God.
- G. **Don’t be afraid to live in the light!!**
1. The light does expose all the dirt; but the good news is that, “once exposed, it can be cleaned up.”
  2. Remember bugs and rats run from the light, but God’s children should run to it.
- H. **Psalm 119:130** (KJV) – *The entrance of thy words giveth light . . .*
- I. **John 1:4-5** – *In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it [put it out . . .*
- J. **John 3:19-21** – Love the light, practice truth, and live in the light. Let your works be plainly seen for what they are.
- K. **If we dwell in darkness, we won’t see God; but blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!**

**THE PURE IN HEART HAVE POWER WITH GOD!!**





# Peacemakers Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. Peacemakers Shall Be Called The Sons Of God.

Beatitudes (defined) – Blessings attached to specific Christian virtues.

### A. **Matthew 5:9**

B. The immature live by feelings. They are carnal.

1. Satan can always steal the peace of anyone who walks in the flesh.

C. A **maker and maintainer** of peace must have peace as a number one goal in life.

1. If keeping self comfortable and happy is the goal, then peace will never be permanent.
2. Peace will come and go based on whether or not self is getting its way.
3. If Satan arranges for an unwanted circumstance, peace leaves.

D. **John 14:27** – Jesus said, “My peace I leave with you.”

1. Peace is our inheritance.

E. **Galatians 4:1-2** – Until the child grows up, he cannot spend his inheritance.

F. It is childish to get upset every time we don't get our way.

1. **I Corinthians 14:20**

2. **I Corinthians 13:11**

## II. **Humility Is Necessary For Peace (Only The Mature Are Humble).**

A. **Philippians 2:2-5** – Paul encouraged the church to walk in harmony with one another. He told them they would need a humble mind to do so.

B. **II Timothy 2:23-24** – Humility helps us avoid petty arguments.

1. There are times when we need to confront issues, but we must learn not to be petty.

2. Petty (defined) – Small, trivial, insignificant. To be narrow-minded or have narrow views.

C. **James 3:13-18** – Peace and humility are attributes of wisdom.

1. Only the wise are blessed.

2. Proverbs teaches us the blessings of wisdom. Honor, wealth, the ability to rule, and long life are a few that are listed.

**THE WISE MAN WALKS IN PEACE. HE IS  
A MAKER AND MAINTAINER OF PEACE.**

## III. **Obedience Is Necessary For Peace (Only The Mature Are Obedient).**

A. A guilty conscience steals your peace.

- B. Acts 23:1 – Doing your duty with a clear conscience
- C. Acts 24:16 – Have a blameless conscience, void of offense toward God or man.
1. Only the mature do whatever is necessary to stay in peace with people.
  2. Peace might require an apology, humility, a willingness to be thought wrong, the giving up our right to be right, etc.
- D. I Timothy 1:5, 19 – A guilty conscience hinders faith.
1. Unless I can put my faith in God, I will never have peace.
  2. Example: I have an unexpected expense that leaves me needing money. If my faith is strong, I can trust God and stay in peace – believing He will provide. However, if my conscience is guilty from previous disobedience, I will not be able to release my faith for my present need and will then worry and struggle trying to meet my own need.  
**My disobedience has stolen my peace.**
- E. Ephesians 4:26-27 – Unless we are obedient and humble, we will stay angry instead of making peace.
- F. Forgiveness is vital to peace.
1. We must be generous with forgiveness if we are to stay in peace.  
  
Both obedience and humility are required to forgive.
  2. We will find it necessary to forgive both friends and enemies.
    - a. Sometimes it is harder to forgive your enemies than your friends.
    - b. We have high expectations of our friends.

- c. We are with our friends more and have more opportunity to be reminded of the offense.

#### IV. We Must Pursue Peace.

A. Pursue (defined) – To follow in an effort to capture or overtake. To strive to obtain or accomplish. To follow. To engage in as a hobby. To chase or run after.

1. **Romans 14:19** – Eagerly pursue peace.

#### **FOLLOW PEACE.**

B. **Colossians 3:15** – Let peace be the umpire in your life.

1. Pursue peace by making whatever decision keeps you in peace.

C. **I Peter 3:10-11** – Pursue peace, seek it, crave it, and go after it.

1. Peace with God, with your fellow man, and with yourself

D. **Let peace be your number one goal in life.**

1. Shouldn't holiness be first?
2. If we follow peace, we will live holy lives.
3. If we follow peace, we will follow the Holy Spirit.

#### V. Hold Your Peace.

A. **Matthew 26:59-63** – Jesus kept silent (held His peace) when accused.

1. Arguing with stupid people always steals your peace.
2. Trying to defend yourself to people who are out to get you is a waste of time.

No matter what you say, they will make something negative out of it.

- B. **Exodus 14:10-14** – The Israelites became frightened and started speaking fear and doubt out of their mouths. Moses told them to hold their peace (shut up), and God will fight for you.
  - 1. Sometimes we would experience victory if we would just zip our lip.
  - 2. **Ephesians 6:15** – You must **PUT ON** your shoes of peace to have victory over the enemy.
- C. **Proverbs 13:3** – *He who guards his mouth keeps his life, but he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*
- D. Hold your peace by learning when to be silent and when to speak.
  - 1. **Ecclesiastes 3:7** – A time to keep silent and a time to speak.

## VI. Christians Should Walk In Peace As A Witness To Others.

- A. **Matthew 5:13-16** – Directly following the Sermon on the Mount (Beatitudes), Jesus tells the disciples not to hide their light.
- B. **Mark 9:50** – Stay salty, keep your flavor, be peaceful, and live in harmony with one another.
- C. **Romans 14:17** (KJV) – *The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and **PEACE**, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*
- D. **We are not enjoying kingdom living until we are walking in peace.**

WE WILL NOT MAKE ANYONE ELSE HUNGRY  
FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNTIL WE ARE  
DISPLAYING PEACE IN OUR LIVES.







# Those Persecuted For Doing Right Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

## I. Blessed Are The Persecuted.

Beatitudes (defined) – Blessings attached to specific Christian virtues.

- A. **Matthew 5:10-12** – We are blessed when we are persecuted for being and doing right.
  - 1. Being right – I was greatly persecuted for believing **II Corinthians 5:21**.

He that knew no sin became sin, that I might be made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ.
- B. **I Peter 4:12-16** – If we suffer because we are Christians, then we are blessed.
  - 1. The Spirit of glory rests upon us.
- C. **I Peter 2:19-21** – Suffering for doing right is part of our calling, and we must bear with it patiently.
- D. To me this is one of the hardest things we are called upon to do.
  - 1. The old Joyce did not take anything off of anybody, so I have had to learn a lot in this area.

2. I have a strong sense of fairness; and “if it is not fair,” then I want to come against it.
- E. Waiting for God to bring justice is a virtue that must be developed.
- F. Types of persecution:
1. Physical – in some countries people are beaten and imprisoned for being believers in Jesus Christ.  
  
Peter, Paul, and many of the other disciples experienced this type of persecution.
  2. Rejection (being left out)
  3. Being made fun of (embarrassment)
  4. Insulted
  5. Judged critically (talked about and thought of in an unkind way)
  6. Discriminated against  
  
Example: You might not get promoted because you won't be dishonest or lie for the boss.

## **II. Diligently Doing Right Eventually Brings A Reward.**

- A. Persecution is an area we pass through.
1. It is testing ground.
  2. When we pass the test, God promotes us and God vindicates us.
- B. I have had several situations in my ministry when people accused me unjustly – and then as much as five years later, they came back and apologized to me.

1. God has given me favor with people who were once very critical of me.
- C. **Isaiah 61:7** – God will give us a twofold recompense for former shame.
1. **Verse 8** – God loves justice and truth.
- D. **Psalms 103:6** (KJV) – *The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*
1. **Oppress** (defined) – Down. To persecute, to be against, to depress the mind or the spirit, to crush or overwhelm, to exercise authority against.
- E. **Hebrews 11:6** – Those who diligently seek God will receive a reward.

### III. Standing Up As Believers In An Unbelieving World

- A. **Matthew 5:13** – You are the salt of the earth – **HAVE YOU LOST YOUR FLAVOR?**
1. **Note in Dakes Bible:** *Salt is a seasoning and a preservative chemical. But if left on the bare earth exposed to sun, rain, and air, it loses its flavor and is worthless.*
  2. **If you are worldly, you have no flavor!**
- B. **John 17:11, 14, 16** – You are in the world, not of the world.
- C. **I John 2:15** – Do not love the world or the things in the world.
- D. If we love the world too much, we will **compromise our Christian principles** in order to have favor with the world or have the things the world has to offer.
- E. If we are overly concerned about our **reputation**, we will become men pleasers instead of God pleasers.

1. **John 12:42-43** – These men loved the approval of men more than the glory that comes from God.

F. **Fear of persecution will cause compromise and allowing others to control us.**

1. Settle it once and for all – IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE A BLESSED CHRISTIAN, YOU WILL SUFFER SOME PERSECUTION.

#### IV. Closet Christians

A. **John 3:1-2** – Nicodemus came at night.

B. **John 7:12-13** – . . . *no one dared speak out boldly about Him for fear of [the leaders of] the Jews.*

C. Many today want to be a Christian on Sunday, but not Monday through Saturday.

1. The fear of persecution on the job or with friends and family causes a great deal of compromise.
2. Compromise causes a guilty conscience.
3. A guilty conscience leads to condemnation, which blocks faith from working.

**WE CAN SEE THAT THE FEAR OF PERSECUTION CAN PREVENT A BELIEVER FROM HAVING POWER WITH GOD.**

D. We even see the “closet Christian” mentality when we have altar calls; and those who raise their hands in secret, don’t want to stand up and come forward.

1. It is the fear of persecution (judgment) that causes this.

E. Some say that religion is a private, personal thing. The Bible does not back up that kind of thinking.

1. **John 1:40-45** – When Jesus called Andrew; he immediately went and got Peter. When Philip was called, he immediately went and told Nathanael.
2. **Acts 2:12-16, 41** – The believers in the book of Acts certainly were not being quiet about what had happened to them.

## V. Persecution From Christians

- A. A compromising Christian will often persecute an uncompromising Christian.
  1. Not every believer wants to live a holy life.
  2. Many want enough of Jesus to stay out of hell, but not enough to walk in holiness.
  3. The church is full of compromising, lazy, lukewarm, apathetic believers; and most of them are judgmental – especially toward anyone who is making an effort to do things right.
- B. When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1976, I lost all of my Christian friends and was asked to leave my church.
  1. I was persecuted by Christians.
- C. My daughter sent out a letter inviting all of her neighbors in her subdivision to a conference we held in St. Louis.
  1. **CHRISTIANS** threatened to sue the subdivision for giving her their names.
- D. It was the “religious leaders” that persecuted Jesus.
- E. **Mark 10:46-52** – Any time you want more of Jesus, someone will be around to tell you to calm down.
  1. Had blind Bartimaeus listened to the people, he would have died a blind beggar.

- F. **Matthew 26:7-8** and **Luke 7:37-39** – The woman was getting extreme in showing her love for Jesus, and the Pharisees did not like it.
1. They wanted her to sit down and be quiet.
  2. They did not love Jesus enough to be radical, and they persecuted anyone who did.
- G. Why is there so much persecution (rejection, judgment, etc.) toward people who want to be baptized in the Holy Ghost? Why have Pentecostals been persecuted and looked at as “religious fanatics”?
1. Some religious people are not comfortable expressing their love for Jesus outwardly. They have bought the lie that “religion is a private matter.”

## **VI. When You Are Persecuted, Stay Positive.**

- A. Don't allow the world to drag you down.
- B. This, too, shall pass!
- C. Your reward will be strong and intense.
- D. **Matthew 5:13-16**





# The Unselfish Are Powerful.

Foundation Scripture: **Mark 5:30**

*And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the **power** proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?*

**JESUS HAD POWER FOR A REASON! HE WAS VIRTUOUS INSIDE;  
THEREFORE, VIRTUE COULD FLOW OUT OF HIM.**

**HIS MOTIVATION IN LIFE WAS GIVING – NOT GETTING!**

## I. Lovers Of Self

- A. **II Timothy 3:1-2** – Selfishness will increase in the last days.
  - 1. **As selfishness increases, so does unhappiness!**
- B. **Matthew 24:12** – In the last days love will grow cold. Love is the opposite of selfishness.
- C. **Psalm 25:1** – *Unto You, O Lord, do I bring my life.*
  - 1. Before we can have power with God, we must fully realize that our lives do not belong to us.
  - 2. **I Corinthians 6:19-20** – . . . *You are not your own, you were bought with a price . . .*
- D. **Galatians 2:20** – It is no longer “I” who live, but Christ lives in me.
- E. **Mark 8:34** – Our cross is to live an unselfish life.
  - 1. This should be our goal, and it is definitely our challenge.
- F. **I Timothy 5:6** – The person who is selfish is dead even while they live.
  - 1. This is why we see so much unhappiness in our world today.

## II. The Art Of Giving Yourself Away

- A. The Corinthians gave themselves.
  - 1. They entirely disregarded their own personal interests.
  - 2. Giving money is no problem once we give ourselves.
- B. **I John 3:16-17** – We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
  - 1. Secondly, we should share our possessions.
  - 2. Giving possessions is nothing if we are not willing to give ourselves.
    - a. It can even be a sacrificial substitute for true obedience.
    - b. God tells us to get involved, and we give money instead.
  - 3. Example: How many children grow up feeling unloved because their parents gave them money and things, but never their time?
- C. **I Thessalonians 2:7-8** – Paul stated that they shared their lives with the people.
  - 1. This “giving attitude” contributed to the power of Paul’s ministry. Remember the handkerchiefs that came from his body had healing power in them.

## III. Many Offer Their Works, But Not Their Lives.

- A. **Isaiah 29:13** – They worship Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.
  - 1. Many go to church on Sunday, sing in the choir, usher, give an offering of money, and never have their minds on God until the next Sunday.

2. **Relationship with God must be more than tradition; it must consume your entire life.**
3. **I tell people who come to be born again that they are standing in line to give their lives away – and if they are not ready to do that, they are in the wrong line.**

B **Matthew 7:21-23** – *Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father . . .*

1. Those who do God’s will are coming to realize that they do not belong to themselves.

C. **I Samuel 15:1-22** – Saul gave a sacrifice instead of obedience.

1. Obedience requires giving yourself.
2. Obedience requires giving your will; it is the central part of yourself.
3. A man’s will tells more about him than anything – it reveals what a man wants out of life.
  - a. Those who are obedient obviously want God and His will.
  - b. Those who are not obedient obviously are selfish and want their own way. They obviously love themselves more than they love God.
  - c. **John 14:15** – *If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commandments.*

#### IV. Giving Ourselves To People Requires Involvement.

A. Our society today avoids involvement.

1. Involvement always means pain – it means dealing with issues.

2. Involvement means adapting and adjusting to others.
3. Involvement means commitment.
4. Involvement requires us to give up some of our freedom.
5. Involvement takes away some of our time.

**THE SELFISH PERSON CANNOT DO ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

B. Involve (defined) – To include as a part; to occupy; **to complicate**.  
In math, it means to raise a number to a specified power.

1. Involvement makes life more complicated because we have to deal with other personalities – we have to consider their desires.

The Bible teaches us to be considerate, and a selfish person does not even think to be considerate of others.

2. Involvement is required if we want to operate in power.
3. One puts a thousand to flight and two, ten thousand.
4. **Proverbs 14:4** (paraphrased) – If you want the strength of the ox, you have to deal with the mess in the stall.

C. We often fear involvement.

1. Many live phony lives – involvement leaves them vulnerable to being found out.
2. One may think, “If I get involved, you may discover that I am not as bold as I pretend to be. You will see my fears, and I don’t want you to know that I have any weaknesses.”
3. Another may think, “If I get involved, you may discover that I am not the spiritual giant I pretend to be. I have a temper, and you may see it. I am impatient; and if I am involved, I won’t be able to hide it.

4. We despise being vulnerable. Total vulnerability leaves us exposed, and that thought frightens us.
- D. If we are involved with others and if we are committed, then our lives no longer belong to us alone. There are expectations placed upon us. We may have to do some things – even when we don't want to.
1. The selfish person does not want to live like that.

**The selfish person is weak and powerless.  
He never benefits from the strength of others  
because he is too selfish to be involved.**

**THE UNSELFISH PERSON HAS POWER WITH GOD.  
HIS LOVE WALK TURNS INTO POWER  
AGAINST THE DEVIL AND POWER WITH GOD.**





