

# Billy Graham: What Does It Mean to Be Poor in Spirit?

In a world often driven by material possessions and financial gain, the concept of seeking to be poor in any facet of life seems counterintuitive. Billy Graham explains why spiritual poverty is critical for believers growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ:

**Q: What does it mean to be poor in spirit, as Jesus said we ought to be? I don't understand this, because it seems to me that we ought to strive to be rich in spirit, not poor. Or am I missing the point?**

**A:** Your confusion is understandable; after all, the Bible does warn us against being empty and impoverished in our souls, and urges us to seek spiritual riches instead. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21).

But Jesus also said that there is another kind of spiritual poverty—one we should seek. He said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). What did He mean? Simply this: We must be humble in our spirits. If you put the word "humble" in place of the word "poor," you will understand what He meant.

In other words, when we come to God, we must realize our own sin and our spiritual emptiness and poverty. We must not be self-satisfied or proud in our hearts, thinking we don't really need God. If we are, God cannot bless us. The Bible says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Pride can take all kinds of forms, but the worst is spiritual pride. Often the richer we are in things, the poorer we are in our hearts. Have you faced your own need of Christ? Do you

realize that you are a sinner and need God's forgiveness? Don't let pride or anything else get in the way, but turn to Christ in humility and faith—and He will bless you and save you.

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