

# The Upside Down Kingdom

## How Spiritual Poverty Leads To Reign

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**  
— Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

In the upside-down Kingdom of God, the path to reign begins with surrender. Jesus' words in Matthew 5:3 seem backwards to the world, but in His Kingdom, blessing doesn't come from wealth, strength, or success. It begins with emptiness.

**To be poor in spirit is to recognize our spiritual poverty before a holy God.**

We have nothing to offer Him, nothing that could earn salvation. We come as beggars, needy, helpless and dependent. And yet, in that posture of total dependence, Jesus promises the highest reward: "the kingdom of heaven." The Kingdom of heaven brings a total reversal of our value systems and our idea of who we consider "the fortunate ones".

But what exactly is the Kingdom of Heaven?

**The Kingdom of Heaven is the rule and reign of God over His people and His creation.**

It was inaugurated with the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, and is now present wherever He is Lord. All who have received Christ as Savior are citizens of this Kingdom, living under His authority. Yet the Kingdom is also not yet, it awaits its full and final fulfillment at Jesus' second coming, when He will restore all things and reign in glory.

**The Kingdom of Heaven is both our present reality and our future hope.**

The Kingdom of heaven brings a total reversal of our value systems and our idea of who we consider "the fortunate ones". The way into this Kingdom isn't through merit, status, or striving.

**"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."**  
— Mark 10:27

It is impossible to save ourselves. Salvation is entirely the work of God, received by grace through faith. Our response is to count the cost, surrender our will, and walk in humble obedience.

**Not that we are adequate in ourselves so as to consider anything as having come from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God**  
— 2 Corinthians 3:5

makarios (GREEK)

STRONGS: G3107

blessed • happy • fortunate

*the good life*



**To be blessed means far more than being happy.**

**It is an inner joy, a peace that flows from being right with God.**

It is both a description of character and a pledge of divine reward. When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," He is both affirming and commending those who see their need for Him and He's promising them the greatest treasure: citizenship in His eternal Kingdom.

**This is the beautiful paradox of the Gospel: spiritual poverty leads to unimaginable riches. The ones who admit they have nothing receive everything.**

## Study

According to Matthew 5:3, who is truly blessed and why?

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What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?

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How does Mark 10:27 help us understand our inability to save ourselves?

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What is the Kingdom of Heaven, and how is it both present and future?

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# Reflect

Do I see myself as spiritually needy before God, or do I tend to rely on my own strength and goodness?

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In what ways might I still be trying to "earn" God's love or approval?

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What would it look like to live today fully dependent on God's grace and not my own effort?

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**SCRIPTURE READING:** 2 Corinthians 3:5, James 4:6, Colossians 1:13, Psalm 40:7

# Pray

Father, I confess my deep need for You.  
I have nothing in myself that can earn Your favor. Thank You for inviting me into Your Kingdom, not because I am worthy, but because You are gracious.  
Help me to live each day with a humble heart, surrendered to Your will, and eager to serve You. May my life reflect the values of Your Kingdom until the day Christ returns in glory. In His name I pray,  
**AMEN.**



# Just a little note....



I just want to say a heartfelt thank you to **Bible Journaling Ministries** for the incredible honor of being one of your speakers. It's been such a joy to share this time of creativity and truth with you, and I'm so grateful to be part of a community that treasures God's Word so deeply.

If you've enjoyed this devotional and want to journey deeper with me, I'd love to invite you to connect with me on social media, come say "hi", see what I'm working on, and join the conversation! You'll find links to everything here:

<https://bio.link/charlenewarwick>

And if your heart is stirring for more meaningful Bible study and creative connection, I'd be honored to have you in my Artspirations Coffee Club, a space where women from all walks of life come together each month to dive deep into God's Word through beautifully written studies and faith-filled encouragement. You'll be challenged, inspired, and hopefully a little braver each month to live out your faith in the real world.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of your journey. I'm just a paintbrush in the hands of the Creator, but it's a joy to be used for His glory. Keep journaling, keep seeking, and never stop creating with Him.

Love & Blessings,

*Charlene Warwick*

Your creative companion from Johannesburg, South Africa

