

one to a fulfillment of that desire—a transition and conversion to holiness. St Augustine notes in his discourse on the Lord's Sermon on the Mount that the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and their necessity in fulfilling the Beatitudes. For example, one must have the gift of fortitude so one may be courageous in seeking justice.

***"BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY."***

Mercy is the loving disposition towards those who suffer distress. Love, compassion and forgiveness toward's one's neighbor will bring peace in your relationships. The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (which are discussed in another pamphlet) are ways to be merciful to your neighbor.

***"BLESSED ARE THE PURE OF HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD."***

To be pure of heart means to be free of all selfish intentions and self-seeking desires. Performing an act perfectly free of any personal gain brings happiness to all.

***"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD."***

Peacemakers not only live peaceful lives but also try to bring peace and friendship to others, and to preserve peace between God and man.

***"BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."***

Jesus said many times that those who follow Him will be persecuted. Nearly all of the Apostles and many Christians in the Roman era suffered martyrdom. Over the centuries there is recorded many martyrs who suffered for their faith. But the Lord promised those that suffer for his sake will be rewarded with the Kingdom of Heaven.

\*(excerpted from: //jesuschrist Savior.net; //bibleseo.hubpages.com)

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# THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,  
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,  
FOR THEY SHALL POSSESS THE EARTH

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO  
HUNGER AND THRIST FOR JUSTICE,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,  
FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY

BLESSED ARE THE PURE OF HEART,  
FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO SUFFER  
PERSECUTION FOR JUSTICE SAKE,  
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

## ***THE BEATITUDES OF JESUS***

\*Beatitudes are the account of eight blessedness preached by Jesus Christ on the Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in the Book of Matthew 5: 3-12, the first Book of the New Testament of the Bible. Matthew's Gospel is directed to an audience steeped in Hebrew tradition. The Gospel of Matthew stressed that Jesus Christ is the Messiah foretold in Hebrew Scripture, our Old Testament, and that the Kingdom of the Messiah is the Kingdom of God in Heaven. Jesus offers us a way of life that promises eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Luke also mentions a similar list of beatitudes in Luke 6: 20-23. The word beatitude means "being blessed or happy." The word has its origin from a Latin word 'beatus' which means "state of happiness."

The teachings of Jesus were simple but unique and innovative at the time of his life on earth. At the time there were four major groups in the Jewish religion, the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and the Zealots, all of whom presented a different viewpoint to the Jewish people. The Pharisees demanded strict observance of the Mosaic law expressed in the Torah, but also accepted the oral tradition of Jewish customs and rituals. The Sadducees were mainly from the priestly families and strictly accepted the Law of Moses but rejected oral tradition. The monastic Essenes awaited a Messiah that would establish a Kingdom on earth and free the Israelites from oppression. The Zealots were a militant Jewish group who wanted freedom for their homeland, and were centered in Galilee; one of the twelve Apostles was Simon the Zealot.

The Ten Commandments, given to Moses on Mount Sinai in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, relates a series of "Thou shalt nots," evils one must avoid in daily life on earth. In contrast, the message of Jesus was one of humility, charity and brotherly love. He taught transformation of the inner person. Jesus presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, virtues in life which will ultimately lead to reward. Love becomes the motivation for the Christian. While the Beatitudes of Jesus provide a way of life that promises salvation, they also provide peace in the midst of our trials and tribulations on this earth.

## ***THE EIGHT BEATITUDES***

***"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,  
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."***

"Poor in spirit" means to be humble. Humility is the realization that all your gifts and blessings come from the grace of God. Humility brings an openness and an inner peace, allowing one to do the will of God. He who humbles himself is able to accept our frail nature, to repent, and to allow the grace of God to lead to conversion. Pride is the opposite of humility, that brings misery. It brings anger and seeking revenge, especially when offended and it leads to war.

***"BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN,  
FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED."***

If we are humble and appreciate that all our gifts and blessings come from God, we grow in love and gratitude for Jesus Christ our Savior. But this can only produce mourning and regret over our own sins and the sins of the world, for we have hurt the one who has been so good to us. One also mourns for the suffering of others.

***"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH."***

Saint Gregory of Nyssa taught that the Beatitudes build upon another. A humble person becomes meek, or becomes gentle and kind, and exhibits a docility of spirit, even in the face of adversity and hardship. A meek person is one that exhibits self-control. St. Augustine advises us to be meek in the face of the Lord, and not to resist but be obedient to Him. Obedience and submission to the will of God will bring one peace in this world and in the next.

***"BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED."***

A continuous desire for justice and moral perfection will lead