

## 1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit - “Don’t Take. Wait for God to Give.”

### A Posture of Empty Hands

To be poor in spirit means to come to God **not with demands**, but with **open, trusting hands**.

We do not cling. We do not take.

We wait. We trust. We listen.


Like a child before a loving parent,

or like Mary, who said: “*Let it be done to me according to your word.*”

### Back to the Garden: The Deep Spiritual Rule

In the Garden of Eden:

- Adam and Eve **took** the fruit — they *grasped* for what was not theirs to take.
- They did not wait for God to give.
- In that act, they moved from **trust** to **control**.

 The spiritual rule:

**“Don’t take. Wait for God to give.”**

The poor in spirit:

- Trust that God will provide what they need.
- Let go of control and manipulation.
- Are willing to be corrected, formed, and loved.
- Know that everything good comes from the Father’s hand — in the right time, in the right way.

### This is the Heart of Discipleship

- Not striving to *get ahead*, but listening for the *still small voice*.
- Not forcing our will, but surrendering to God's.
- Not coming to God full of our own agendas, but *empty enough to receive His*.

### Contrast With the World

#### **The World Says**

Be self-made.

Take what you deserve.

Never show weakness.

Assert your will.

#### **The Kingdom Says**

Be God-dependent.

Receive what God gives.

Empty yourself to be filled.

Surrender to His will.

### The Core of This Beatitude

We are blessed when we stop grasping and start receiving.

We are blessed when we do not impose our will, but wait for God to give.

We are blessed when we trust that what comes from His hand is **better than anything we could grab on our own**.

Watch “The Bible Project” Biblical Patterns in the Bible



### ✂ Scenario 1: The Work Email

You've been overlooked for recognition on a major project at work. Someone else — who didn't contribute much — got all the credit. You're hurt, frustrated, and tempted to send a follow-up email to clarify your contribution. **What do you do? Choose one.**

**A. You send an email to your supervisor with a professional but clear summary of your contribution, to make sure the truth is on the record.**

*"I worked hard on this, and I need to make sure people know it."*

**B. You take a breath and think, "God sees this. I'll wait for Him to lift me up in His time."**

*"I'll be quiet for now — I trust that justice will come eventually."*

**C. You bring it to God in prayer: "Lord, I'm hurt and confused. What are you showing me in this? What do you want from me — even if I never get credit?"**

*"If you want me to speak, I will. If you want me to stay silent, I will. But only with you."*

### ✂ Scenario 2: The Facebook Comment

Someone posts something rude, misinformed, or offensive online — maybe even something that touches on your faith, values, or identity. You *know* you could reply with a well-crafted response to "set the record straight." **What do you do? Choose one.**

**A. You write a respectful but strong response, correcting the misinformation and clarifying your point of view.**

*"This can't go unchallenged. People need to know the truth."*

**B. You roll your eyes, keep scrolling, and think, "It's not worth it. I'll just ignore it and move on."**

*"People like that won't change anyway."*

**C. You pause and pray: "Lord, what is the loving response here? Is this mine to speak into, or am I just needing to be right?"**

*"Help me act from love, not ego — even if that means saying nothing at all."*

### ✂ Scenario 3: The Family Gathering

You're at a family dinner when your sister-in-law makes a subtle but cutting comment — the kind that has an edge and history behind it. You're tempted to bite back with a quick, clever response... or to withdraw and shut down emotionally. **What do you do? Choose one.**

**A. You say nothing, but spend the rest of the dinner withdrawn and cold toward her.**

*"I'm done trying. She doesn't deserve my energy."*

**B. You respond with calm but pointed words, calling out the passive-aggressive comment in front of everyone.**

*"I'm not sure why you felt the need to say that, but it wasn't kind."*

**C. You pause inwardly and pray: "Lord, I don't want to feed my ego. I want to respond with love. Show me what to say — or not say — from your heart, not mine."**

*"Help me stay soft and open, even when I feel stung."*

✓ **ANSWER TO #1) is... C. - Most aligned** with the Beatitude.

- This is **spiritual poverty in action**: it brings the situation to God *first* with open hands, seeking **wisdom, not control**.
- Whether or not the person eventually speaks up — the action comes from **discernment**, not ego.
- It trusts that **God’s plan is more important than the person’s comfort, reputation, or reward**.

⚠ **B.**

- Often mistaken for faith, but can reflect **passive diminishment**.
- It may come from **fear, unworthiness, or a belief that “I don’t matter.”**
- True humility does **not erase self-worth**. God doesn’t ask us to disappear — He asks us to walk with Him.
- There is no conversation with God here — just quiet resignation.

⚠ **A.**

- May be externally similar to a healthy action, but comes from **self-assertion** rather than spiritual discernment.
- There’s no surrender, no trust, no space for God.
- It may restore a reputation, but it doesn’t deepen the soul.

💡 *Key Insight*: Sometimes God **will** lead us to speak up.  
What matters is *who* we are listening to when we choose.

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✓ **#2) C. - This reflects the heart of the Beatitude — humility, self-awareness, and prayerful discernment.**

- You’re not reacting out of pride or avoidance, but opening space for **the Spirit to guide your words — or your silence**.
- Poverty of spirit doesn’t mean disengaging from the world — it means **engaging from a place of spiritual freedom**, not ego.

⚠ **B.**

- At first glance, this may look like peace — but it’s really **dismissive disengagement**.
- “Poor in spirit” doesn’t mean **indifference**. It means being present, but not possessive.
- This response **withholds love** rather than offers it.

⚠ **A.**

- The intent may be good, but without discernment, this often becomes **a subtle act of self-righteousness**.
- The need to be seen as “right” can easily override the call to be **humble, kind, and listening**.
- Sometimes we’re called to speak truth — but only if we’ve first emptied ourselves of the need to “win.”

💡 *Key Insight*: The “right thing” can become the **wrong spirit** if it’s not rooted in surrender.

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✓ **#3) C. - Poverty of spirit means you don’t let pride write your script — nor do you let bitterness shut your heart down.**

- This response turns to God *first*, offering Him the moment, the wound, and the ego — and asking what *He* wants to do with it.
- You may be called to speak up — or to gently let it go. Either way, the response is rooted in **discernment, not defensiveness**.

⚠ **B.**

- This may feel honest or empowering, but it can easily be driven by **wounded pride or a need to “set the record straight.”**
- It may escalate the moment instead of transforming it.
- There’s no room for God here — just a controlled clapback.

⚠ **A.**

- This is **passive pride** in disguise. You don’t lash out, but you *freeze out* — punishing with silence.
- It closes the heart to grace and gives resentment a foothold.
- There is no surrender, no healing, no invitation for transformation.

💡 *Key Insight*: Poverty of spirit doesn’t mean being passive — it means being **anchored in God, not ego**.  
It’s a brave softness, not a self-protective shell.