

# TRUE HAPPINESS – GOD’S PATHWAY TO BLESSINGS

## *THE BEATITUDES*

(Matthew 5:3-11) cf Psalm 1 & Galatians 5:22,23

### CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

#### 1. HUMILITY *Pride goes before a fall*

*“Humble yourself before the Lord and He will lift you up.”*

(The pastor who received a medal for HUMILITY – The congregation had to take it away from him when he wore it!)(“I’m more humble than you!”)

Sober assessment, judgment, realistic/balanced, fallen creation.

Recognise who God is and admit what you are. Only God is good.

#### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GOODNESS

VS. PRIDE, ARROGANCE

*“To walk humbly with our God.”*

#### 2. REPENTANCE *To whose voice are you listening?*

**How do you respond to God’s Word?**

CHANGE: **Conviction** – a change of mind

**Contrition** – a change of heart

**Conversion** – A change of life/behavior/conduct

Return to the Lord

Turn away from sin

Repentance leads to RESTITUTION and OBEDIENCE

#### PSALM 1

*“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers...”*

#### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

SELF CONTROL

VS. REBPROBATE, UNREPENTANT,  
UNTEACHABLE, UNRESPONSIVE

*“Lord have mercy on me – a sinner!”*

#### 3. MEEKNESS *Faith in action*

Confidence. *“A mighty fortress of our God.”* Steadfast. Immovable. Resolute. Strength. Meekness is not weakness. A mountain is meek. *“A gentle and quiet spirit.”*

#### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PATIENCE, SELF CONTROL

VS. INSENSITIVE, FORCEFUL, ARROGANT

#### 4. SPIRITUAL HUNGER **In what do you delight?**

*“As the deer pants for the water so my soul longs for you.”*

Enthusiasm for God’s Word. Hunger for God’s Word. Zeal for God.

*“...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”* John 7:37-38

Thirst for God’s Spirit.

##### **PSALM 1**

*“His delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, whose leaf does not wither; and whatever he does prospers.”*

##### **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*FAITHFULNESS*

VS. *LETHARGY, APATHY, COMPLACENCY*

#### 5. MERCY **How much fruit of you producing?**

**Are you blessing others?**

Forgiving. *“Freely you have received, freely give.”*

Generous and kind. *“To love mercy.”*

*“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.”*

##### **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*KINDNES*

VS. *BITTERNESS, JUDGMENTALISM, MERCILESS, CRUELTY, UNFORGIVING, HYPER-CRITICAL*

#### 6. PURITY **“Without holiness no one will see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14**

Sanctified, cleansed, set apart, Holy.

Clean mind, clean thoughts, clean words, clean heart.

*“Purified by obeying the truth.”*

The cosmonaut who said he had been into space and saw no God, and the young Russian girl: *“But, comrade, the Bible says that only the pure in heart will see God!”*

##### **PSALM 1**

*“For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous...”*

##### **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*JOY*

VS. *IMPURE, WORLDLY, IMMORAL, DEFILED.*

#### 7. PEACEMAKING **“A soft answer turns away wrath.”**

A ministry of reconciliation. Doing what needs to be done to bring about restoration.

Communication. Caring enough to confront.

Promote peace.

*“Making every effort to do what leads to peace.”*

##### **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*PEACE*

VS. *GOSSIP, CONTENCIOUS, DIVISIVE, STRIFE CAUSING, SCHISM.*

**8. SACRIFICIAL SUFFERING** “...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12 “Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.’” Acts 14:22

“They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” Rev. 12:11

Stephen, the Apostle, Perpetua, Hus, Ann Askew, William Tyndale.

Duty first. Love God and love neighbour. Stand for Christ no matter what the cost.

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matt. 6:33

Jesus said that there is no greater love than that one lay down one’s life for another. (John 15:13)

Sacrificial service is more eloquent than many sermons.

What you do means more than what you say. ACTION speaks louder than words. Love can be measured by how much we are willing to suffer for them.

Forget yourself – Deny yourself, forsake the world, take up your cross and follow Christ.

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*LOVE*

VS. *SELFISHNESS, COWARDICE,  
COMPROMISE*

BE HUMBLE, BE REPENTANT, BE MEEK, HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, BE MERCIFUL, BE PURE, BE A PEACEMAKER AND STAND FOR CHRIST NO MATTER WHAT.



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