



Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses - January 2003

Are You A Blessing To Your World?

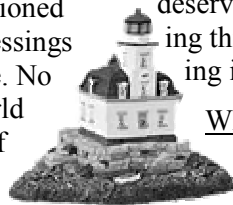
As we start a new year, many Lighthouses report a sense of concern about a lack of effectiveness in their world. While this is often just a matter of patience (*"do not grow weary."* Gal 6:9), it would be arrogant to assume that patience is the only possible issue.

For a Lighthouse to be most effective, it must be a blessing to the world around it. *Praying* for others is extremely important and it helps us to become more sensitive to God's love for them. But people really begin to see Jesus shine in us as we begin to *Care* personally for them. And they listen to what we have to *Share* much more readily once they believe we truly *Care*. *Praying, Caring and Sharing are blessings.*

An often quoted Lighthouse Scripture is Matthew 5:16 which says: *"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* But we tend to forget about what immediately precedes this command - the Sermon on the Mount. It was here that Jesus taught his disciples what it truly meant to be blessed and that it is necessary to receive these blessings before a person can become a light in their world (*note that the condition for a blessing [poor in spirit, etc.] is a blessing in it's own right*). We will review these principles to see how they apply to us and how they affect our world. May they bless your Lighthouse. — KC

***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Matt 5:3 NAS**

This blessing (*also known as a "beatitude" from the Latin word for blessing – beatus*) was mentioned first by Jesus because all blessings that follow stand on this one. No one can be a light to the world (v.16) unless they are part of the Kingdom of Heaven.



What is the condition for blessing?

The first condition we must experience is to be poor in spirit. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? It means that we have come to that point in our life where we realize that we have sin in our lives, that we cannot justify ourselves before God, and that we have no hope of heaven unless God

helps us. Poor in spirit can be thought of as poor in pride and spiritual self-confidence. It is a life that is utterly devoid of any illusion of earning or deserving eternity with Jesus. Realizing this truth in the depths of our being is truly a blessing.

What is the blessing?

When we are poor in spirit, we are ready to receive the first blessing — *the Kingdom of Heaven*. When we realize we do not deserve it, we are at the point where we can accept the *gift* of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Receiving this blessing through Jesus creates an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the price God's Son paid that we may have life.

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"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Matt 5:16

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light —Eph. 5:8

What should be our response?

One of the greatest examples of how we are to respond to this blessing is given in Mark 5:1-20 when Jesus freed a man from terrible demon possession. The man wanted to go with Jesus, to spend time in the presence of this wonderful Savior. But in v.18 Jesus says: *"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."* NAS Jesus did not tell the man to leave the world behind, but to share with the people in his life the Good News of God's love. And the man's response, in verse 20, was to obediently and enthusiastically go to the ten cities known as Decapolis and tell everyone what God had done for him. *This is Sharing at its very best.*

But we must understand that it was the *Sharing* of a blessing received, not a religious effort to be achieved. It was not a burden to be accomplished, but the heartfelt act of a grateful recipient *Sharing* his blessing. The motivation,

the attitude, the very character of one who is poor in spirit and receives the gift of life is dramatically different from one who struggles to survive on their own. The recipient of the blessing radiates the gift and has a testimony about the giver. We become a light of hope and joy to everyone we meet. *The world is now blessed by our blessing.*

It is so important to remember that a Lighthouse cannot be a spiritual blessing to others unless it is first blessed by Him. The power of the light within us is directly related to the strength of our relationship with Jesus. Attempts to generate His light through our own efforts results only in a frustrated, failing light. A weak relationship with Jesus equals a weak Lighthouse.

With that principle in mind, let's focus in 2003 on building our fellowship with Him, so that our Lighthouse can be used by Him as a blessing to others. Seek His blessings with a poor spirit that can receive His grace, and become part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Billy Graham Telephone Worker Opportunities

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will broadcast nationwide during the first week of March and the Albuquerque Telephone Center needs volunteers. Training for new workers will be held on Tuesday, March 4th from 6-9PM at Del Norte Baptist Church (dinner will be served at 5PM). Please call the ABQ Center at 832-6385 if you wish to attend training, or visit www.LightShine.net and click on [BGEA TVTM](#).

Statewide Evangelism Conference

The New Mexico Baptist Convention will hold its 2003 Statewide Evangelism Conference, titled "Fan The Flame," on February 10-12 at Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque. The Conference is free and will feature several excellent international speakers and lots of informative Breakout Conferences. The conference starts Monday at 6:30PM and runs through noon on Wednesday. Call the Evangelism Office at 924-2334 for more information about this exciting and informative conference.