

FOUR-FOLD FILLING OF THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 7:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- *Jesus concluded His teaching, known as the Sermon on the Mount, with a parable about building a house.*
- *When Jesus said, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them,” He was referring to the principles He had previously taught in Matthew, Chapters five, six, and seven.*
- *Jesus exhorted His disciples not to simply be hearers of the Word but doers. It is not enough to simply hear or even know the teachings of Jesus. We must be willing to obey and apply them to our lives if we are to reap their benefits.*
- *The Sermon on the Mount provides an overview and a blueprint for the Christian life. In these three chapters, Jesus outlined 48 principles of the Christian life. He dealt with everything from prayer, fasting, forgiveness, marriage, divorce, unfaithfulness, taking of oaths, giving, covetousness, to how to have proper relationships with believers, unbelievers, and even enemies—to name just a few of the principles He taught.*
- *Jesus began the parable by comparing those who both hear and obey His teachings as “a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*
- *In contrast, Jesus described those who hear His teachings but fail to obey and apply them as “a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”*
- *Scripture refers to Jesus as “The Rock” numerous times, so it is very significant when Jesus says that he who hears and obeys is like one who builds his life upon the Rock.*

- *The Greek word for “rock” used to describe Jesus means “a large massive rock, bedrock,” something that is immovable and unchangeable, something that can be relied upon.*
- *In life we will all encounter storms, but what we built our life on will determine how we will weather those storms.*
- *What a great joy to obey God’s Word fully and to build our lives upon the Rock of our Salvation, Jesus Christ. Nothing and no one can move us when we are founded on the truths of God’s Word—upon the Rock!*
- *Jesus contrasted those who hear and obey His teachings with those who hear, but disobey or disregard His teachings.*
- *Those who have heard the Word of God, but choose to disobey it are called “foolish,” because foolish people know what they ought to do but choose not to do it.*
- *Hearing God’s Word is not sufficient—we must put it into practice.*
- *Disobeying Jesus’ teachings is like building a house on shifting sand.*
- *Sand is composed of fragmented bits of rock which are not cohesive or solid.*
- *Sand is made of the same material as rock. The rock is solid while the sand has no strength.*
- *Knowing God’s Word does not make us fruitful, stable, or strong. Obeying His Word is what produces fruitfulness, stability, and strength. Our obedience brings together the truths we read in His Word and forms a solid foundation of rock so we can weather the storms of life!*
- *Jesus then described the adversity that the two types of houses experienced: “the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house.” Life is filled with difficulties no matter how we try to avoid hardships and trials.*

“When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up—the flames will not consume you.” (Isaiah 43:2, *The Living Bible*).

- *God doesn’t promise there won’t be storms; He does promise to be in the storm with us. (Isaiah 43:2). Notice that God didn’t say if, He said when.*

- *The parable reveals three types of adversity we will face at different times in our lives—the rains, floods, and winds.*
- *“the rain descending” may speak about judgment, just as the flood in Noah’s day portrays the judgment of God coming upon the earth.*
- *Satan is referred to “as the accuser of the brethren.” (Revelation 12:10). When we have unconfessed sin or disobedience in our lives he heaps accusations on our heads producing shame, guilt, and condemnation.*
- *Don’t confuse condemnation which is always from the devil with conviction which is always from God. Condemnation offers no hope, conviction always offers hope.*
- *However, if we are obedient to Christ and His Word, and are quick to acknowledge and confess any sins or failures then there is no opportunity for the devil to bring accusations against us or heap shame and condemnation on our heads.*
- *After the rain, the second thing to come against us is “the floods.”*
- *“the floods” may speak about the circumstances of life that just happen and are the reality of living in a fallen world.*
- *The rains descended, speaking about things coming down from above. However, the floods of this life are those things around us that happen as part of everyday life.*
- *The floods could be small things that upset us such as our car breaking down when we are late for an appointment to very large and imposing problems such as facing a serious illness.*
- *The circumstances of life try to overwhelm us and cause us to feel like we are drowning in the problems of life.*
- *The third thing that comes against us is “the winds.”*
- *“the winds blowing” may speak about spiritual attacks.*
- *Satan is described in Ephesians 2:2 as “the prince of the power of the air.”*
- *Demonic attacks can take on many different forms, from the enemy attacking our emotions and trying to beat us down with discouragement, to placing thoughts in our minds in an attempt to sow doubt and confusion.*

- *However, if we keep our minds filled with the good things found in God’s Word we will be filled with a peace that passes understanding. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8). Thinking about our problems magnifies them; thinking about God puts them into perspective.*
- *The enemy can also try to overwhelm us with fear and worry. However, when we are strongly grounded in the Word of God and not only understand His Word, but are obedient to His Word, then our spiritual armor is secure from top to bottom. The helmet of salvation protects our mind with certain hope in our future with Christ. Our feet are fitted with the readiness that comes by knowing the Gospel of peace.*
- *Although both houses experienced the same attacks, their outcomes were dramatically different. The house built on the rock stood solid and immovable, while the house build upon the sand fell “and great was its fall.”*

Matthew 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- *The intensity of these three things that came against the house built on the rock is described using the word “beat on that house.”*
- *The Greek word for “beat” is προσπίπτω (prospiptō) and it means “to strike against, slam against something, to rush upon,” emphasizing the force and ferocity of the attack.*
- *Although the Greek word prospiptō is found eight times in the New Testament, only in Matthew 7:25 is it translated, “to beat against something.”*
- *In every other instance, this Greek word prospiptō means “to fall down in reverence or fear, to prostrate oneself in supplication or homage,” as we see in the following verses.*

Acts 16:29-30 (NKJV)

²⁹Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down (prospiptō) trembling before Paul and Silas.

³⁰And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

- *At midnight as Paul and Silas were sitting in a prison bleeding from being beaten, they were singing, praising, and worshiping the Lord. Suddenly, the prison was shaken, Paul and Silas’ chains fell off, and the prison doors swung open.*

- *The jailor, who just a few hours before had shown disdain and indifference to their plight, now responded by falling down before them and paid homage by asking the most important question he could ever ask, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*
- *Depending on our response, the storm that was sent to destroy us can give us wonderful testimony that pays homage to God.*

Matthew 7:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

- *The Greek word used in verse 27 describing the attack on the house built upon the sand is a completely different Greek word than the one used in verse 25, although they have both been translated as “beat.” In verse 27, the word beat is προσκόπτω *proskoptō* and it means, “to strike; to stumble against something,” so it can mean to accidentally trip over something.*
- *While the attack on the house built on the rock is described in a powerful and deliberate way, the attack on the house built on the sand is described in a less intense way, suggesting that a lesser attack was able to totally demolish the house.*
- *People who build their spiritual house on the sand and disregard Christ’s commands will often bemoan every little problem as an earthshaking attack against them. They mistakenly credit the devil with every problem they face. In reality, many of their problems are nothing more than the circumstances of life that we all face daily or the result of their own choices.*

Ephesians 3:17-19 NKJV

¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-

¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- *Paul’s prayer and desire for all believers is that we would “know the love of Christ which passes knowledge” which results in us being “filled with all the fullness of God.”*
- *One may miss the full impact and the profound implications of these two statements until one ponders them for a moment. What a great blessing to know the love of Christ which is beyond knowledge and to be filled to overflowing with the power, presence, and abundance of the One who is infinite!*

- *The nine beatitudes found in Matthew, Chapter five, serve as a table of contents for the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. The nine beatitudes can also be seen as goals that can be reached by applying the rest of the teachings, principles, and truths found in the Sermon on the Mount. These nine beatitudes are meant to produce a fullness to overflowing of not only God's blessings but of God Himself! The One whom even the heavens and all creation cannot contain desires to fill our hearts!*
- *We can see a pattern in the beatitudes outlining the process by which we can be filled to overflowing.*
- *These four steps to being filled are repeated twice in the beatitudes. Together they produce a fullness that will last for eternity!*
- *We will study the beatitudes using the analogy of how a glass is emptied, cleansed, place under the tap, and then filled.*
- *During the first four steps the Lord is working in us to prepare us and fill us to do the work of the ministry.*
- *Step One: The vessel must be emptied.*

³⁶**Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- *This is where we let go and empty ourselves of all our self-righteousness and self-justification in preparation to being filled with all the goodness of God.*
- *The dirty contents of a glass are first poured down the sink before the glass can be washed.*
- *This prepares us to experience the first aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—love. We can receive and embrace God's unconditional love for us independent of how we have acted or lived. "We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19). We can let go of our pretense of self-righteousness and accept His love for us just as we are.*

- *Instead of Jesus turning away from us when we acknowledge our failures He invites us into His everlasting kingdom. “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (It’s a come as you are party!) ☺*
- *Step Two: The vessel must be cleansed.*

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

- *It is sometimes painful and difficult to face our failures and sins but this is the next step in being cleansed, so we do not continue to live in the past or continue in the cycle of failure and sin. “Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning.” (Ecclesiastes 7:3-4a).*
- *This is where the glass is washed and sometimes scrubbed to remove any hardened dirt or stains.*
- *The sorrow that leads to repentance and change is not rooted in shame and condemnation, but in hope and comfort through Christ’s redemptive work in our lives. “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” (2 Corinthians 7:10).*
- *We can be assured that in the midst of our mourning and repentance God is there to comfort and draw us near to Himself, “for they shall be comforted.”*
- *Godly sorrow prepares us to experience the second aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—joy.*
- *We may sow tears of repentance as God cleanses us from sinful habits. However, we can be assured that with great joy we shall reap a bountiful harvest of Christ’s righteousness being manifest in our lives. “Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy” (Psalm 126:5) and “Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5b).*
- *Step Three: The vessel must be set upright under the tap.*

⁵Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

- *This is where we meekly submit to the will of God to position us and allow Him to fill us with His purposes. Meekness, humility, and submission allow God to place us where He wants us and do what He knows is best for us. In meekness we can pray the most wonderful prayer of surrender, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42).*

- *For the glass to be filled it must be situated directly under the tap with the mouth of the glass upright.*
- *Meekness prepares us to experience the third aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—peace, as we learn to fully surrender to the will of God.*
- *When we are meek and surrendered to the will of God we will receive the delight of the blessing of “inheriting the earth.” We will see His will done in our lives. Not only will we receive a heavenly inheritance but we can inherit those things He has for us now. We can walk in His predestined works that He has prepared for our lives! When we meekly submit to His will we can pray with confidence, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10).*
- *Step Four: The tap must be turned on in order for the glass to be filled.*

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

- *When we hunger and thirst to see Christ’s righteousness manifest in and through us, He is faithful to fill us!*
- *The more we hunger and thirst after righteousness the more we will see the “tap” of Christ’s righteousness turned on in our lives to fill us.*
- *A good indication to how much we are hungering for righteousness is reflected in our desire to pray, seek God, and obey His Word. “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33).*
- *Hungering and thirsting for righteousness prepares us to experience the fourth aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—longsuffering and patience. When we hunger and thirst for God we will persistently and patiently seek Him until we see the fulfillment of God’s will in our lives. “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9).*
- *During the first four steps the Lord is working in us to prepare us and fill us in order to do the work of the ministry. In the second four steps the Lord is working in us and through us to fill us a second time to sustain us while we are doing the work of the ministry. When we are engaged in ministry it does not mean we have fully arrived or have no need for further growth and development. In fact, serving the Lord and serving others enables us to grow and be filled more deeply with Jesus.*
- *Step One: The vessel must be emptied.*

⁷Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

- *The first time we had to be emptied of those things that defile and contaminate us such as pride, bitterness, selfishness, and all sorts of carnality. However, this time we have been filled with His righteousness. Having received God's mercy, we can in turn be merciful. Instead of the contaminated things being poured down the sewer like the first emptying, the good things God has poured into us are poured into others for their edification and comfort.*
- *We pour out mercy to others as we feel sympathy and empathy for their suffering and struggles. One of the words that describes Jesus is "compassionate." It was God's love and mercy for us that compelled Jesus to endure the most horrific death on the cross of Calvary.*
- *As we pour ourselves into others and minister to them we can be assured that God will not leave us empty. He will surely fill us afresh and with an even greater anointing. "For they shall obtain mercy."*
- *Receiving mercy prepares us to experience the fifth aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—kindness. No matter how many times people fail, struggle, or let us down we will continue to be kind to them because we are full of mercy, being conscious of how patient, kind, and merciful God is to us.*
- *Step Two: The vessel must be cleansed.*

⁸**Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.**

- *Even though we may have walked with the Lord for many years and are ministering to others there are always deeper things God wants to bring to the surface so we can be fully sanctified.*
- *"Blessed are the pure in heart" not only speaks about a heart that is clean and free from sinful habits and unresolved issues but it can also refer to a heart that is sincerely and wholeheartedly seeking God with no ulterior motive. God wants to free us from selfish ambition and competitive attitudes that can undermine our ministry and service to God.*
- *A pure heart allows us to see things through God's eyes and from God's perspective—thus the pure in heart will see God. They will see God's hand in every situation they face and every person they encounter. "that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." (Philemon 6).*
- *A pure heart allows us to see the good things that God is doing while a heart that is bitter and defiled sees everything from a skeptical and jaded point of view. "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."*

(Titus 1:15). When our hearts are defiled we are oblivious to all the good and wonderful things God is doing and all we can see are the things that are not of God.

- *Purity of heart prepares us to experience the sixth aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—goodness. The Greek word for goodness speaks about “the act of generous giving, to be generous.” When our hearts are pure we can see God’s goodness and generosity and we respond to others with a heart of generosity.*
- *Step Three: The vessel must be set upright under the tap.*

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

- *After we learned to be meek and submitted to God, now we can be peacemakers and help others to submit to Him so they can also be filled with His love and presence.*
- *Those who are peacemakers shall be called sons of God. The Greek word for sons refers to those who have matured. We are to grow and mature and emulate the greatest peacemaker—Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God!*

Ephesians 2:13–16 (NKJV)

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

- *Being a peacemaker prepares us to experience the seventh aspect of the fruit of the Spirit—faithfulness. Even as Jesus was faithful to reconcile mankind to God the Father through His sacrifice, Jesus wants to live through us so we can faithfully reflect His heart of reconciliation to all those around us, both believers and non-believers.*
- *Step Four: The tap must be turned on in order for us to be filled.*

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- *The first filling was for those who hungered and thirsted for righteousness but this second filling is for those who are willing to suffer persecution and hardship for righteousness' sake!*
- *This second filling is a double portion and contains a double blessing.*
- *We can rejoice that we have been counted worthy to share in the suffering of Christ. By enduring suffering we may see His Body built up and strengthened. "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church." (Colossians 1:24).*
- *Suffering persecution for righteousness' sake prepares us to experience the last two aspects of the fruit of the Spirit—gentleness and self-control. When people taunt and revile us we **can** respond with gentleness and self-control just as Jesus did, "who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously." (1 Peter 2:23).*

Matthew 5:10–12 (The Message)

¹⁰**"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.**

¹¹**"Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.**

¹²**You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.**