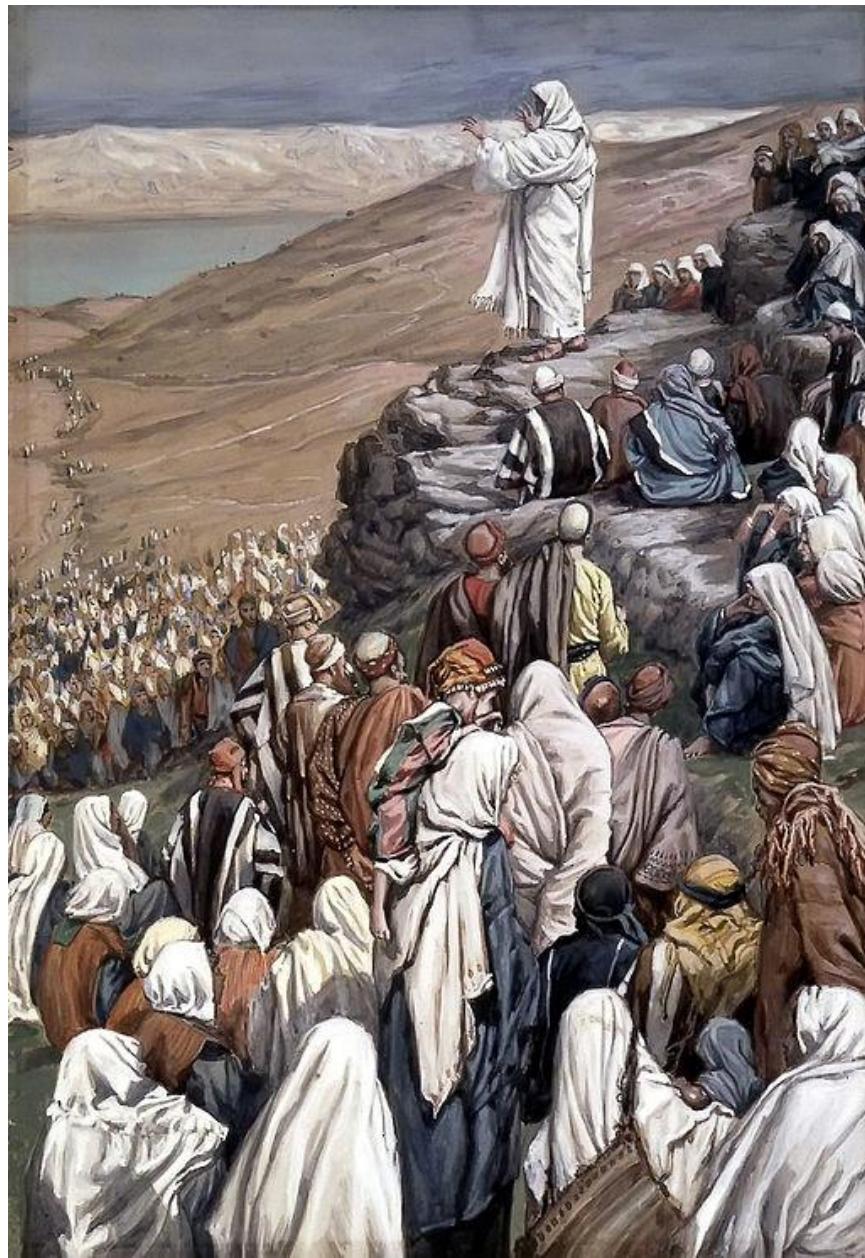


Rosicrucian Insights

The Beatitudes



Climbing the Ladder of Initiation

By G. E. Carlin

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

(Matthew 5:3-12 KJV)

The Beatitudes: *The Open Secrets of Initiation*

The Sermon on the Mount or The Beatitudes as taught by Jesus provides us with understanding of true Christian discipleship and the way by which we can experience the ultimate happiness in our lives. Yet, for both the mystic and the occultist it is seen as the necessary conditions of Christian Initiation, a “*Chart of Initiation*” by which to learn the knowledge of God’s Kingdom that provides not only the moral laws we must adhere to but it clearly states the virtues that we must develop so they become part of our being. In many ways the Beatitudes are concentrated extracts of all the teachings of Christ. Some call them “*secrets*”, but Christ proclaimed them openly for all to hear and laid them out in sequence in which one leads to the next so if we are sincere in our effort to follow them to conclusion, we can be insured of our spiritual evolution.

It is critical that we understand that the beatitudes can be both painful and joyous experiences that we must experience and accept now within ourselves in our spiritual journey upon the Earth as we need not wait to gain their rewards. They will occur in our physical and spiritual realms of our being and when understood properly will be the source of empowering energy for our souls. Ultimately, the Beatitudes provide the way in which we can experience communion with God. Each Beatitude provides us with a paradoxical statement in which we are given an attribute or an action and then told what new contradictory discovery or outcome we can then expect. As it will be from these new discoveries and outcomes or truths that we will move beyond our egos and spiritually advance so as to prepare ourselves for the next beatitude. Perhaps, one might say that the beatitudes are spiritual instructions for the “*training of the soul*” in which the goal is to “*change*

the disposition of your soul" so that we can now ascend to Higher Worlds, the Kingdom of Heaven, where we can directly experience Christ.

Key to the Initiation process of the Beatitudes is the blood we are willing to shed as our blood stands for our life and the sacrifices that are willing to make for others so we might we become givers of the world. In this process we started out as lowly beggars in our past or current life who only asked for things and now, we exist as true benefactors of the world in our highest spiritual bodies at the table of the Lord. In many ways the *Eight Beatitudes* are similar to the *Eight-Fold Path* that Buddha gave to his followers so through each practice of the path they might attain the virtues necessary to gain the spiritual insights for their liberation. For when we develop each virtue on our spiritual path, we acquire a new "*organ of perception*", our spiritual senses, to work within the Higher Worlds and become One with all things of the world.

Steiner firmly believed that "*the capacities of man will develop up to seeing the Etheric vision of Christ, in the reality of which they can then believe, just as firmly as did St. Paul himself!*" and that the Beatitudes hold important teachings to help us in preparation for this. He stated that each Beatitude when developed had a targeted effect to one of our bodies starting from the lowest, the Physical body and then progressed to the higher; *Etheric, Astral, Soul, or Spirit*. While others such as Corinne Heline, a student of Max Heindel, found that there were parallels that could be drawn from the *Old and New Testaments* in the teachings of King Solomon and Jesus in which "*each patterned his life after the initiatory formulae by which every man knows himself as a god.*" Therefore, for each beatitude in the Gospel of Matthew we will find there is corresponding scripture in either the Book of *Proverbs* or *Ecclesiastes*. In addition, she provides the *Planetary Correlations* for each Beatitude to better help us understanding its true meaning.

The First Beatitude

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture:

Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men: For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen. (Proverbs 25:6-7 KJV)

Planetary Correlation: *Mercury*: represents humility, intellect, learning, the spiritualized mind, a love of the truth, and the “*Christ power to control all manifestations and phenomena of the earth.*”

Body: Physical

The First Beatitude speaks to the virtue of being “*poor of spirit*” or having humility in which we are free of pride and learn that the things we need in life do not come from ourselves and we must become completely dependent upon God. We must question our mind to free it from our ego and understand that the wisdom we believe to be true is meaningless. At the lowest point in our lives, we realize the full extent of our imperfections and we are now one of the poor of spirit. In this type of humility, we become open to spiritual teachings as we now realize that we are “*utter[ly] spiritual bankruptcy before God.*” We are only a helpless beggar who can only have his needs met by God. For once we see that we are spiritually worthless we can then come to God and he will provide us with not only all our provisions but more importantly with our salvation.

When we are *poor in spirit*, we accept that Christ is the Light of the World and we only desire to live our lives in His divine Light. Therefore, the First Beatitude reflects our life in our physical body as this equates to being *poor in spirit*, however, one can only receive the Kingdom of Heaven “*if they develop their ego-ruled bodies in the right way, they will find the Kingdom of Heaven*” which is found in right thinking, feeling, and action. The blessings of this beatitude can only occur if we live a life that is “*true and holy ... in obedience to Law, which is Truth itself*”. When the kingdom of God is received by the poor in spirit, they shall now see God much in the same way the high priests were allowed to enter the inner sanctuary of the tabernacle to be within the Light of God.

My Prayer for the Poor in Spirit

O Lord, Merciful and Forgiving, help me as I live within my physical body to free myself of all my foolish pride and understand that which I need cannot come from myself so I must always be completely dependent upon You, my Lord for all of life's provisions. Do not let my ego keep my mind bound to its meaningless beliefs and false wisdom so I may be an empty vessel to Your divine teachings that contain the sacred wisdom that focuses one only on the truth. Let me, a helpless beggar, sink within the pain and suffering of the world so that I may now see with my own eyes the imperfections that I carry and awaken my spiritual vision to see that I am spiritually worthless and now must count myself as one of the poor in spirit ready to come before You so You might provide all my provisions and deliver my soul through salvation. By living a true and holy life that honors Your Law, I believe in my heart that I will always find the blessing of Your Kingdom of Heaven as You are the Light of the World. By being poor in spirit You have allowed me to enter the inner sanctuary of the tabernacle so that I may bask in the glory of Your Light so I can joyfully receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.



“Do not those who always seek consolation deserve to be called mercenaries? Do not those who always think of their own profit and gain prove that they love themselves rather than Christ? Where can a man be found who desires to serve God for nothing? Rarely indeed is a man so spiritual as to strip himself of all things. And who shall find a man so truly poor in spirit as to be free from every creature? His value is like that of things brought from the most distant lands. ... O most blessed grace, which makes the poor in spirit rich in virtues, which renders him who is rich in many good things humble of heart, come, descend upon me, fill me quickly with your consolation lest my soul faint with weariness and dryness of mind.”

- The Imitation of Christ, Thomas a Kempis

The Second Beatitude

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:2-3KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Venus:* can uplift our fear, it allows us to experience love and harmony, directs us in how we seek balance and connection, and shows us that “*love is the great antidote for evil.*”

Body: Etheric

In many ways we are all like the prodigal son who decided there was more to life somewhere else and soon came to realize the value of what we left behind. So, we mourn our loss and come back to repent and ask for forgiveness. Ultimately, this is captured in the first two Beatitudes in which we start by becoming “*poor in spirit*” in the First Beatitude; stripped naked, hungry, and rejected by the world so that now in the Second Beatitude we can then come to mourn our own death. Therefore, at the most immediate level mourning can address the fact that we have sinned and rebelled against God and we have separated ourselves from His love and mercy and we are now deeply sorrowful. And, God, just as the father of the prodigal son is more than ready to take us back and dress us in new garments, place a ring on our finger, and prepare a feast in our honor. In our mourning there is a promise that we will be comforted by God.

Even in our greatest losses, when we suffer the most, we find our mourning draws us closer to God so He may fulfill His promise of comfort for us. In our mourning we are reaching out and seeking compassion and asking others to acknowledge what we are feeling so that we can find the tiniest glimmer of hope that we can cling to. For what we as mourners want is to go beyond our grief and guilt and to stand righteous before God understanding that we will fall short at times but if we repent and forgive ourselves then we can continue to move forward not grasping the need to continuously mourn our mistakes. Then even if our time of mourning is unbearably painful, we have to come to understand that it holds one of the most valuable gifts we can be given, an opportunity for our spiritual transformation. If we look at the Greek word used for “*comfort*” it is not only about being freed from our sin and pain it also about changing our being so that we that we seek to encourage others … assisted by the power of the Holy Spirit!

As Steiner explains, we come to understand that the only way to endure sorrow and grief from mourning and find comfort is by developing the power of our ego from within ourselves so we can locate the Holy Spirit within our inner being. Therefore, the Second Beatitude shifts its work from the physical body now to the etheric body. And Heindel adds, that our comfort can also come our departed love ones when we enter the Desire World during our sleep and dreams, while in some

cases we may even be comforted in our work together as Invisible Helpers. Our responsibility is to now accept and endure our suffering, strengthen our Ego, and “find the Paraclete or Holy Spirit who reveals itself thru the ego” so that we can awaken the Christ-within so we might grow from His divine wisdom. Mourning then comes to mean being passionate about transformation in our lives that brings us closer to Christ so we have comfort or “unlimited opportunities for soul growth”. And over time, our soul will evolve a “spiritual organ” so that it can withstand the suffering we must endure in our lives to spiritually advance. Ultimately, mourning is necessary to arrive at the Christ-consciousness so that we might experience the true peace of God’s grace.

My Prayer for Mourning

O Lord, My Source of All of Comfort, help me to endure the burden of the sorrow and grief from my mourning so that I may come to the light of Your righteousness. Lord, I am shamed and filled with guilt for the sin and rebellion I have shown in Your presence. Help me to find my way back to You so that I may feel the comfort of Your loving embrace, dress me in Your new garment of salvation, and place Your golden ring upon my finger so my transformation can now commence from my own spiritual death. Take me beyond my grief and guilt and strengthen the power of my Ego within my body so that the Holy Spirit emerges from its inner sanctum ready to assist me in that which You have called me to do by Your will. With Your presence awakened within me infuse throughout my body Your divine wisdom so I might learn how to enter the Higher Worlds in my sleep and dreams so I may also receive comfort from past loved ones and higher beings. For then, as a full moon that hangs uncovered in the night sky, I can readily perceive the life-saving faith and hope that radiates from the mercy of Your love so that I may then learn how to comfort others through encouragement and bring them to Your love. I bless You for the countless opportunities, both seen and unseen by my ignorance, that You have provided for my ongoing soul growth so that we together can share the elevated level of Your divine consciousness and I may experience the true peace that “transcends all understanding”. For You have empowered me with a new spiritual organ so that I might withstand any measure of sorrow and grief and thereby work in Your vineyards as an Invisible Helper who can provide comfort to other as You have done so for humanity. Amen.



The Third Beatitude

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. (Proverbs 11:2 KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Moon:* Provides control of our emotions and mind to provide balance and it has power that “*attracts and increases*”.

Body: Astral

In order to be meek one has to have great strength so that they will treat others with gentleness, have control over their temper so they can respond to difficult situations with kindness and not anger, and they can remain calm even in the most challenging situations. Even when treated harshly by others they bear no grudges or seek any form of revenge as they can move past any indiscretions without feelings of bitterness or hatred for, they understand that goodness can come from all situations in life. In meekness there is humility as we have become “*disciplined by spiritual practice*” so that we are open-minded and we may hear the inner voice that comes from within so that we become attuned to the “*creative voice of eternity*”.

In meekness we are patient with self-control that allows us to keep our anger in check so that we may follow the practice of nonresistance without ever oppressing those that are weaker or exploiting those that unable to withstand our advantage. In the Bible the only description of Jesus is he is “*meek and humble of heart*” (Matthew 11:29) and as his followers we seek to imitate that which he demonstrated in living His life and the teachings He provided us with. By cultivating meekness, we produce the most powerful force that allows us to overcome any difficulty we might experience in our lives. By having meekness in which our “*strength [is] brought under control*” we can address our own sin and treat even the worst of the wrongdoers with sympathy and compassion. Ultimately, God is our master and we will always be obedient and submissive to Him because we understand that He knows what is best for us as we are like newborns completely dependent upon Him for everything in our lives as well as the salvation of our souls.

For Steiner, meekness is evident when one has a gentle voice that never hurts or offends others. Those that are meek are calm and collected as they have discovered the way by which to balance their minds even during the most stressful situations. Heindel even further applies the benefit of this concept to working in one’s business with customers, our homes, and other social relationships. Therefore, we need to develop the needed strength and power so that the Ego can balance and control the “*passions and emotions of the astral body*” so we can then inherit the Earth. It is only by our meekness that we can sever our old-self through crucifixion, resurrection, and then come to the higher consciousness of our Christ-within and return to the Earth through our ascension. For the mystic, “*meekness is the quality that allows us to remain grounded and receptive to higher truths, enabling us to transform our earthly existence.*”

Symbolically, the Earth represents “*manifestation or expression*” that must have control over to ensure the successful outcomes and harmony within our lives. For it is by our faith, the openness of our minds, and finally understanding that there is only goodness in the will of God and that by inheriting the Earth it opens itself so that we may experience “*all its beauty and riches*”.

Prayer for the Meek to Inherit the Earth

O Lord, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, build within me strength that is tempered by self-control so that I might also be meek and humble of heart. May the gentleness of my being flow within my words so that only kindness is found in their meaning even when I am challenged by those who seek only to inflict pain upon others. Open my mind to the inner voice through which You guide me so that I may learn to hold no bitterness or anger in my heart and I can see the good in all of life's experiences. Help me Lord to follow Your example and let meekness always be the strength for all my difficulties from which I am then able to offer heartfelt sympathy and compassion for those who have lost their way. Train me in patience and obedience so that I will always be submissive to Your will as I know that it is only through You that I will receive salvation for my soul. Bless me with the power to discipline my Ego so that it can withstand the passions and emotions of the astral body and bring them under its dominion so in its control they can open the way by which to inherit the Earth. In the true meekness of my being allow me to come to the Christ-within, grounded and sensitive to the higher truths that pour forth so that I may now transform my earthly existence and find the harmony that I am so desperately seeking. Allow me to calmly stand as You guide me above the invisible seam of the Earth so I may watch in wonder as it opens itself and welcomes my presence so that I may now inherit all of its riches and beauty from Your creation. Amen



“O Lord God, just Judge, strong and patient, You Who know the weakness and depravity of men, be my strength and all my confidence, for my own conscience is not sufficient for me. You know what I do not know, and, therefore, I ought to humble myself whenever I am accused and bear it meekly. Forgive me, then, in Your mercy for my every failure in this regard, and give me once more the grace of greater endurance. Better to me is Your abundant mercy in obtaining pardon than the justice which I imagine in defending the secrets of my conscience. And though I am not conscious to myself of any fault, yet I cannot thereby justify myself, because without Your mercy no man living will be justified in Your sight.”

- The Imitation of Christ, Thomas a Kempis

The Fourth Beatitude

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour. (Proverbs 21:21 KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Uranus:* “A divine yearning for the highest” to push us past any limitations and provide new possibilities. It pushes us “to make the ideal real” within ourselves.

Body: (Sentient) Soul

Each Beatitude is connected to the next to form a chain in which each link of the chain provides the truth necessary to move to the next link so it can be further be built upon. The central link in the chain of Beatitudes is the *Fourth Beatitude* that calls for us to hunger and thirst for righteousness or to “fervently seek” to fill our inner emptiness with Christ, relentlessly pursue justice, integrity, and love, and live a life of conviction that seeks to demonstrate our virtue in all of our actions. Therefore, being hungry and thirsty represents our intense desire to have a right relationship with God and our fellow man.

So far, the first four Beatitudes have reflected the “*condition of the heart*” as Christ will always begin our transformation with our hearts. In our lives we want to understand the world that God has placed us in and raise our spiritual awareness so that we are always aligned with God’s will so that we are right in our relationship with the Father. The thirst we have is for the living water that Christ offers so we may become fully conscious of the Christ-within and “*become the channels of God’s love and Grace*” to help our fellow man in their spiritual evolution.

For the mystic, our hunger and thirst are for “*right-thinking*” which is now our raised consciousness as “*Christed thinking*” so that we can focus our attention upon thoughts that will bring us to Higher Worlds and spiritual truths. By opening our minds, we can live in a new reality of unlimited potential and opportunity. Therefore, it is through one’s right thinking which seeks to increase spiritual awareness that one may “*fulfill their Christ potential by aligning their human nature with their Christ Nature*.” We must with intense desire now develop our soul bodies and egos so that we become filled with the “*Christ-power*” so we can send forth our love to all so we are “*working for the righteousness of the world*.”

My Prayer for the Hunger and Thirst of Righteousness

O Lord, Our Righteous King, I feel within myself an insatiable hunger and thirst for the Your redeeming blood so that I may always walk in righteousness, blessed in a life of unity with You my God. Help me to purify my Ego and permeate my Soul with Your Being so there is only right thinking within my heart to live and breathe according to Your Laws. Let Your godliness grow within me and raise my

spiritual awareness so my heart thinks only of the relentless pursuit of love, integrity, and justice. For then through my transformation, I will walk in righteousness, so I can best conform myself to the right behavior to satisfy Your divine will and live a life of conviction that others may observe through my acts of service and compassion. Lord, raise my consciousness so with my Christed thinking I may fulfill my Christ potential and develop my Soul Body and Ego and locate the human center within my Ego. Through Your kindness and mercy quench my parched lips with Your living water so it may satisfy my thirst after righteousness. For from the Christ-power of my inner being I can use my spiritual gifts and talents to then send forth a stream of brotherly love to work for the righteousness of the entire world. Amen.



The Perfect Righteousness of God

by Albert Midlane

*The perfect righteousness of God
Is witnessed in the Saviour's blood;
'Tis the cross of Christ we trace
His righteousness, yet wondrous grace.*

*God could not pass the sinner by;
Justice demands that he should die;
But in the cross of Christ we see
How God can save, yet righteous be.*

*The judgment fell on Jesus' head;
'Twas in His blood sin's debt was paid;
Stern justice can demand no more,
And mercy can dispense her store.*

*The sinner who believes is free,
Can say, "The Saviour died for me";
Can point to the atoning blood
And say, "This made my peace with God."*

The Fifth Beatitude

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh. (Proverbs 11:17 KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Jupiter*: is the planet of faith and hope and the pursuit of higher understanding. Its guiding rays bring wisdom and blessings and the “*mercy and compassion [that] attracts to itself benefits of like nature.*”

Body: (Rational/Intellectual) Soul

Mercy is offering kindness to those in need, it is showing compassion and can also require forgiveness. It is qualified as being *unmerited* because when we show mercy it is not for something the person rightfully deserves, for example if we had a warranty for a car then having it repaired for no cost for a covered repair is not merciful but if the warranty did not cover a specific repair and the dealer did it for no cost because he saw your need than that would be mercy. In the Bible, the parables of the *Prodigal Son* and the *Good Samaritan* provide two clear acts of mercy, the accepting father for the return of his rebellious son and the Jewish merchant who is beaten and robbed and cared for by the Samaritan man. Yet, Christ was the ultimate example of mercy for humanity by providing His life to provide our salvation. While the *Lord's Prayer* also directs us to be merciful, “*Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*” (Matthew 6:12).

We must learn that we can only expect compassion and mercy from others if we in turn develop and practice compassion and mercy for others. In the Bible it speaks of this as *reaping what we sow* or as the meaning the occults understands in the expression of the “*twin laws of Rebirth and Consequence*” in which what we give will come back to us (usually in greater abundance). So, if we offer mercy to others than we can expect mercy in return in our lives. In addition, it is expected that we will also show mercy for those who are young and will make mistakes but need to learn without suffering crippling punishments and we must show mercy to all animals understanding that they too are on a path of evolution.

For Rosicrucians, developing compassion and mercy is part of the process of “*awakening the ego*” by which we become “*pure in blood or in the heart*”. Man’s Ego is critical in our spiritual development in that it is the only place that “*divine substance in man come to life.*” It occurs when the candidate brings within himself the Christ-power so he can develop and bring forth the qualities of mercy and compassion within his Intellectual Soul which will extend beyond himself and then return. As Steiner tells us, when this occurs, the Intellectual Soul will “*shine forth*” working to raise the consciousness while slowly purifying the ego. Then we realize that regardless of how different others may appear, when their souls shine forth as ours, they are exactly as we are and then we can “*enter into the right relation with our fellow-man.*” Ultimately, what we develop from our Intellectual Soul is “*something which we must pour forth into our surroundings and which must flow back to us again.*” It is the only Beatitude in which what we are blessed with is the same that will return to us, mercy. It is through mercy that

we can heal relationships and bring forth peace. Therefore, the mercy we give to others will grow our soul bodies, the golden wedding garment, that is needed to ascend to the Higher Worlds.

My Prayer for Mercy

O Merciful Lord, Compassionate Son of the Most High, open my heart so that I will always show mercy and kindness to those in their time of need and forgive my debtors all debts. May my acts of mercy be like those of the Good Samaritan in which he gave by the love and compassion of his heart. Lord, awaken my Ego so that I too may become pure in heart and Your divine substance may permeate my body so that the Christ-power may come to life within my Ego thereby filling my Intellectual Soul with mercy and compassion. Then let the light that my Intellectual Soul produces, shine forth as my consciousness raises and my Ego seeks to reach its purified condition so I might experience the equity of my fellow man as we bind together in fellowship and unity. Help me to spread the light of mercy and kindness so it illuminates even the darkest corners of the world around me, finds those who are in need so broken relationships can be healed and the comfort of peace of Your love may spring forth, and then migrate back into my soul so it might work to grow my soul body. Lord, let me stand before you in my golden wedding garment so that I might ascend to the Higher Worlds and sit by Your side. For I was the prodigal son and I have returned to be held within your embrace of Your great mercy and receive a “new birth into a living hope” through the sacrifice of your crucifixion and the sealing of eternity with You, my Lord. Amen.



The Sixth Beatitude

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend. (Proverbs 22:11 KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Mars:* Provides the energy and ambition that is required for the success of our transmutation. Its fiery nature helps to bring a change from our lower nature to “the pure gold of the higher” by driving us to purify ourselves so that our “*spiritual centers [will] flower upon the cross of the body.*”

Body: (Consciousness) Soul

Being pure in heart means that we are focused entirely on one thing in our lives and that is complete devotion to Christ. Therefore, everything we do in our life must demonstrate our “*single-minded devotion to Christ*” as seen in our “*devotion to a life of love.*” By being pure in heart, we are concerned about our inner purity which is reflected in those things we desire and pursue in our lives which should only be the glory of God and to be part of His heavenly kingdom. As our hearts become pure then our words, actions, and behaviors will also change to reflect that which is pleasing to God. It is our commitment to Christ; He transforms our hearts so that we are driven to know Him and understand His teachings so that we may live a life that follows His example. Then we can see God.

When we have a pure heart than we can see God in every aspect of our lives, regardless of its significance, whether it be a small pebble on the ground or a beautiful rainbow across the skyline we see God. A pure heart provides focus and clarity in our lives so that we don’t become distracted by those things that don’t matter or divert us from God’s will. Therefore, we are purifying our mind so that we can come to understand, or see, the purpose God has for our lives and then how He interacts in our lives and with humanity throughout history to ensure the outcome of His divine plan. He wants us look beyond ourselves, the egocentric heart, and work from a pure heart that is filled with love, compassion, and honesty so we can be bold and creative with our lives as we can love and serve our fellow man.

Through our purification of our heart, the ego is refined so that all impurities are extracted and now exists as “*pure ego*” which is now “*capable of receiving God into itself.*” Then as we continue to spiritual advance, our “*purified consciousness soul*” can now see God as we have been promised. In terms of our physical bodies, the ego and the consciousness are represented by the blood which is then acted upon and transformed by the purified heart or ego. What we must be careful of is how we deal with our suffering so that it does not diminish our purity. The key to this will be “*trying to see God, to discern the divine purpose within and behind our difficulties.*” By this process we can build our soul body or Golden Wedding Garment so that we may now enter the Higher Worlds. As Steiner explains, the heart or the pure ego at this stage is expression of God within man. Ultimately, our purity is a result of our transmutation in which the pure ego, our Christ-within, is awakened so it might now join in Unity with the Father.

My Prayer for Purity in the Heart

O Lord, My Mighty God Who Comes before My Eyes, help me to shed away that which prevents me from having my single focus upon Your glory. Let everything I do speak Your name and bring You Your rightful praise. Transform my heart so through its purity I can come to know You and understand Your Word for only then shall I see You my Lord. Let me no longer be distracted by those things that take You from my sight so I may always be aligned with Your higher purpose and ensure the fulfillment of Your divine plan. For then as I consider the unfoldment of my life and all others throughout history, I will now see how Your hand gently guided us towards the will of Your plan. Through Your mercy and compassion, You have extracted the many impurities of my heart to complete the purification of my Ego so that it has become a vessel worthy of Your presence. From my purified heart, let my blood carry the Word and be pumped throughout my body and touch upon all its cells so that I can now only devote myself to a life of love. Therefore, my Lord allow me now with my "purified consciousness soul" to perceive the Christ-within me and to see You, my God. Let not the sufferings I bring upon myself distract me and in challenging times, help me to see Your divine presence and purpose within my difficulties. Now hear my praise, for my soul body has grown large and it shines brightly signaling the completion of my transmutation so I am dressed now in the beauty of a golden wedding garment ready for the royal banquet so that I may now unite with the Father in Oneness. Amen.

A Pure Heart

O God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your only begotten Son, give me a body unstained, a pure heart, a watchful mind, and an upright understanding, and the presence of Your Holy Spirit, that I may obtain and ever hold fast to an unshaken faith in Your Truth, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord; through whom be glory to You in the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. AMEN.

- The Clementine Liturgy

The Seventh Beatitude

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
(Matthew 5:9 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy (Proverbs 12:20 KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Sun:* The Sun or Christ provides the empowering energy of peace upon the earth so that “awakened within ourselves we will come into perfect peace.”

Body: Spirit-Self

Peacemakers are those who work to restore the relationship between God and His people as well as with each other. They promote peace and help to bring unity and harmony in the world as “*agents of reconciliation*”. As peacemakers they find ways to resolve disputes and disagreements as well as to be “*witness to the truth of Jesus Christ*”. Spiritually, those who are recognized as effective peacemakers are also considered to have the sign of being spiritually advanced. Ultimately, a peacekeeper is fulfilling the Fifth Commandment, “*Thou shall not kill*”, as killing goes beyond physical death to include not wanting someone to exist if you dislike or disagree with them. For St. Augustine, peace is bringing a “*tranquility of order*” in which we bring forth helpful things and eliminate hurtful things.

In order to be a peacemaker, we need to start with ourselves and make certain that we have peace in ourselves first. We need to examine our own lives and see where we fall short with the ideals of Christ, repent, and ask for forgiveness so that we may be saved. Then we can share our testimony of God’s mercy in our reconciliation, the faith that allows us to believe the opportunity exists for everyone, and the ongoing benefits of fellowship with the Lord. As it is through peacemaking we will find justice, people choosing to do the right things, and positive relationships that build upon the good so that the world becomes a better place for all of humanity. Christ himself was the ultimate peacemaker and at the Last Supper with His Apostles, he told them, “*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you*” (John 14:27) and when he resurrected His first words were, “*Peace be with you*” (John 20:21).

Heindel saw peacemakers as completing the cycle from the *poor in spirit* who find the kingdom of God in their lifetimes upon the Earth then to continue as Children of God in their role as peacemakers. As this is what he believed would allow us to now be “*recognized [as a] Son of God*”. Yet, he was also clear that a peacemaker is not someone who makes compromises to please others but is a “*divine creative creature*” in making good peace. However, in order to avoid any temptations as a creator we need to always remain poor in spirit. While, Steiner looks upon man as vessels that are now being filled with the spirit and when we with the help of Christ have filled ourselves with the spirit, we are then the *Children of God*, the final destination in our spiritual evolution. In the process it is important to remember that Christ has entered and joined with the Earth, therefore we must work with Him as it is through His Impulse, the empowering energy of

peace, that we will also become Children of God as we develop our Spirit-Self by “bring[ing] down the spirit from the Spiritual Realms” to fill our own vessels.

My Prayer to Become a Peacemaker

O Lord, Prince of the Peacemakers, appoint me as one of Your royal peacekeepers so that I may work to restore relationships between You and Your lost sheep. Let me function as Your agent of reconciliation so that I may help to effectively resolve disputes and disagreements between the people and restore the tranquility of order. Lord, confirm within me that I have a sufficient power of peace within myself so that am I fit to witness to the glory of Your divine truth. Have faith in me, that as a peacemaker I can help and guide others to act in the highest moral character with their brothers, always choosing that which is right and fair over that which would express their greed and lack of concern for others, and to feel within their hearts the need to treat all people with justice and protection. Judge me first to have maintained the desired trait of being poor in spirit knowing that I have found Your kingdom here on Earth so I can now work as your faithful servant to bring my brothers to their inner peace, not by trying to please everyone through compromise but through creative approaches and solutions. Therefore, my Lord, from within the depths of the core of the Earth in which You reside, radiate Your Impulse to the surface so that I may charge myself with Your empowering energy of peace to develop the Spirit-Self within my being so that I myself can then bring down the spirit from the Spiritual Realms needed to fill the vessel of my being so that I may now be counted as a Child of God. For then as Your appointed peacemaker, I can be Your ambassador to spread Your peace and harmony upon Your entire creation and be called upon as one of Your Children, a true Son of God. Amen.



The Eighth Beatitude

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:10 KJV)

Corresponding Old Testament Scripture: *Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. (Isaiah 66:5 KJV)*

Planetary Correlation: *Saturn:* Provides a pathway to the higher realms if one is willing to endure the trials, although it can be a “*whiplash of sorrow for the neophyte; the thorn-crown becomes the halo of radiance only through Initiation.*”

Body: Spirit-Man

When we live a life of righteousness we will be challenged by others and it takes courage to stand for your beliefs. Our faith in God and following His ways is often countered with persecution as were many of the Old Testament prophets. So, even though we have worked to develop pure hearts and have shown ourselves to be meek, merciful, and filled with humility and act as peacemakers who look only to share the love of God, we can expect others to harass and oppress us. For we need look no further than how Jesus was treated by many in His time upon the Earth. *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (John 15:18 KJV)* Yet, our job is to stand firm and trust in God so that we can continue to move closer to Christ. It will be difficult to face such intense adversity but in the end our we shall experience the Kingdom of heaven.

In Christian Initiation, adversity is considered part of the process and overcoming it demonstrates our commitment to the process and helps the candidate in terms of “*strengthening the soul and deepening one's connection to the divine.*” It can be tempting to give in to compromise but this is our spiritual test to demonstrate our courage and steadfastness in our convictions to the “*divine principles.*” Ultimately, we will not only be persecuted but we will be “*martyred*” for righteousness’ sake and we must demonstrate the commitment of our mature being in which we “*stand firm with grace.*” As Christ told His disciples that they would be persecuted after His ascension but in return they could expect the kingdom of heaven.

For Steiner, this meant that the blessed would receive Christ that brings the “*Life-Spirit*” (or buddhi) within oneself which others will not understand and fear so as to bring out their responses of hatred and anger so they persecute the blessed. Steiner explains that by the Christ-Impulse we absorb into our being we produces within ourselves a “*new sense*” that helps to “*develop the force of firmness*” so that we can withstand persecution and become a “Son of Man”. Then we can rise up to the spiritual worlds to merge the Spirit-Self, Life-Spirit, and Spirit Man that than “*stream down towards one*” so we then as Your chosen disciple share Your blessed Word with all our brothers.

My Prayer for those Persecuted for Righteousness

O Lord, Bright Morning Star of Righteousness, help me to stand firm and trust in You as I suffer from persecution for my righteousness. Let all the adversity that comes from those around me strengthen my soul and build the power of my Ego so I may deepen my connection with You my Lord by always remaining steadfast to Your divine principles. Help me to pass this spiritual test of Initiation and always "stand firm with grace". Allow me to absorb Your Impulse to bring my new spiritual sense to life so I may move within the world with a "force of firmness". Lord, I hunger and thirst only for righteousness in Your eyes. Guide me in my growth upward to the Higher Worlds so together with the Spirit-Self, Life-Spirit, and Spirit-Man they may "stream down towards one." As Your chosen disciples I am always ready to spread Your message regardless of the peril for I am standing firm knowing that within myself is the Kingdom of Heaven. For in righteousness, we bring forth the light of You, my Lord, so I will always walk in walk in Your glorious light. Yet, for those who walk in darkness, help me to endure their persecution and find ways to bring light within their hearts so they will learn to follow the path of righteousness and through their own inner power find the treasures of the Kingdom of Heaven within. Amen.