

(Spirit-Filled Life) Part 5: Poverty of Spirit

by Zac Poonen

The full gospel is not just speaking in tongues or being healed, but living as Jesus lived, walking in the same manner as he walked.

Duration: 43:42

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, 1 John 2:6

Topics: "Christian Living", "Spiritual Maturity"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of living a life that reflects the way Jesus lived. He highlights the verse from 1 John 2:6, which states that those who claim to abide in Christ should walk in the same manner as He did. The speaker shares his own experience of being taught the usual Christian beliefs but not being pointed to this verse. He emphasizes that it is not just young and inexperienced Christians who need to understand this, but even the Apostle John, who wrote this letter at the age of 95. The speaker also expresses his disappointment in the decay and backsliding of Christendom and the lack of passion for godly living.

Transcript

He's blinded the minds of unbelievers by not allowing them to see that all their sins can be forgiven, that Christ died for all their sins on the cross. But as I've moved around and I've seen, he's also blinded, the devil's blinded the minds of many believers from seeing that Jesus, the way he lived on earth, was meant to be an example for us to live. And if we can believe that the benefit of his death can come to us, and all of us believe that, because our eyes were opened, the Holy Spirit opened our eyes and we saw that Jesus actually took all the guilt of my sin, all that punishment on the cross, so I don't have to live a single day with a burden of a single sin in my past life.

Now, if the Holy Spirit, if you'll allow the Holy Spirit to show you the second wonderful truth, and that is that the way Jesus lived on this earth, the Holy Spirit has come to fill us, to make us live exactly like that. You know what would happen to your life if you believed it? This word in 1 John chapter 2 verse 6 would be fulfilled in your life. 1 John 2 verse 6, it says, The one who says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same manner as he walked.

For so many years of my Christian life, nobody pointed out that verse to me. What was I told? I was told the usual things that Christians are told. Christ died for my sins, the blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin, I should read my Bible every day, I should pray, I should go to church, and one day I'll go to heaven,

there's a mansion prepared for me, all of that.

But it's amazing that for so many years of my life as a young Christian, for 15, 16 years of my life, after being born again, not a single preacher that I heard read this verse to me and preached on it. And you know sometimes we hear a message once and it's not enough. How many of you can say that the first time you heard that Christ died for your sins, the very first time you accepted Christ, I didn't.

I heard it so many times before I accepted Christ, and I think that's true for most of us. It's not enough that we hear it once. We heard it and heard it and heard it and one day we surrendered.

I never heard anyone tell me that I could walk as Jesus walked. It was a tragedy. Why is it that I heard so many preachers for nearly 20 years of my life and nobody ever told me that I could walk as Jesus walked? Well, first of all, they themselves didn't have faith for it.

And of course they can't preach on it unless they were hypocrites. And why didn't they have faith for it? The devil had blinded their eyes. They couldn't see it.

But I have often thought, I was converted when I was 19, and if from that time somebody had told me, you can walk as Jesus walked, I would have said, how is that possible? And if he had told me, Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to fill you so that you can walk as Jesus walked, and if I had heard it and heard it and heard it, I would have got on to this way long before I actually did. And that's why I say many of you who are young, who can hear the full gospel, this is the full gospel. That your past guilt can be taken care of.

You know, we have two parts to our life, our past and our future. Right now where you're standing, you look back, you've got a past and you look ahead, there's a future. And the full gospel is that which tells me how my past can be taken care of and how I can deal with the future.

That's the full gospel. But there's so much of deception concerning this phrase, full gospel. The full gospel is, some churches call themselves full gospel churches.

I went to those churches. Not one of them taught me that I could walk as Jesus walked. They told me I could speak in tongues and I could be healed of my sickness.

What's the use speaking in tongues and being healed of my sickness if I live in sin? No, that's not the full gospel. I thank God I speak in tongues. I thank God I've experienced healing in my body.

I thank God I've seen people healed in answer to prayer. I thank God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But none of that can compare with being able to walk as Jesus walked.

I'd give up all of that to walk as Jesus walked, any day. The Living Bible paraphrases this verse as, Anyone who says he's a Christian must live like Jesus lived. And I want to say to all of you, my brothers and sisters, go to a church where they keep challenging you to live as Jesus lived.

Otherwise, you'll suffer the fate I suffered for so many years. Being occupied with so many good things, there's a proverb which says, The good is the enemy of the best. If you can understand it.

You can do a lot of good things and miss out on the best. You can go to a church where you hear good things, but do you hear the best? The best is this, that you can walk as Jesus walked. And I want to show you another verse.

Now remember, this is the Apostle John. It's not some young upstart. You know, 25 year old young Christian trying to preach on something.

Young people can sometimes in their zeal, preach a lot of things. But they're very sincere. They don't have the experience.

They don't have the knowledge. It's like the young unmarried man who wrote a book on ten principles on bringing up children. Till he got married and had ten children and no principles left.

Then his cry was, Lord help. You know, it's very easy to preach theories to people in areas where we've had no experience. But this is not someone speaking like that.

This is John the Apostle writing a letter at the age of 95. He was filled with the Spirit 65 years earlier. And from 65 years of experience, he's saying, if you say you're a Christian, you must live as Jesus lived.

He saw the decay and the backsliding of Christendom around him. You know, Christendom had backslidden terribly by the end of the first century. And if you want to know how bad it was, read Revelation chapter 2 and chapter 3. There were one or two churches like Philadelphia and Smyrna that were really faithful.

But five of the churches which the apostles had planted, in 30-40 years, they had backslidden. They missed the calling of God upon their life. They were taken up with activity.

They were taken up with prosperity. And when you get taken up with activity and prosperity, you also fall into immorality. And that's another thing that happened in those days.

You read it all in chapter 2 and chapter 3. John, can you imagine John disappointed when he saw the condition of people who claimed to meet in the name of Jesus and the way they were living, the way they were living at home. The church services were probably dead. The mighty presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit was not there in their meetings.

For many years now, if I go to a meeting and I share God's word and I don't sense the mighty presence of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, I tell you what I do. I go back to my home and weep and repent and say, Lord, what was wrong? There's a great need for repentance among God's people. We accept so many things which are not normal standard Christian life.

The normal Christian life is to live as Jesus lived, to behave like Jesus behaved. The normal Christian husband is the one who treats his wife exactly like Jesus would. Anything less than that is not normal.

And if you're not living the normal Christian life, you should be repenting. How many of you do that? You know, that's the way to come to this life. If God sees that you're satisfied with the substandard third-rate Christian life that you see around you and you've been living for so long, He'll allow you to live there.

Because God doesn't force anybody when He doesn't want anything better. Think of something as precious as going to heaven. Do you know how many 100,000 people died yesterday in the world who went to hell? God didn't stop them.

Why didn't He catch them by their necks and say, you got to go to heaven, man, you know what's good for you. God doesn't force anybody. And if He doesn't force people to go to heaven and allows thousands of people to die and go to hell every day, I'll tell you something, He's not going to force you to live a godly life

if you don't want to.

He's not going to force you to walk like Jesus walked if He sees you don't have a passion for it. I remember the years when I didn't have a great passion to live as Jesus lived. I was busy in activity, preaching here, doing this.

I never missed a meeting. But I wasn't living like Jesus lived. I wasn't living like Jesus lived at home.

I used to get upset and angry with my wife and my thoughts were unclean. But I was preaching. I was busy in activity.

I never missed a meeting. I didn't have a passion. And God allowed me to live like that for so many years.

Because He saw I was happy with that. And if He sees you're happy with that, I tell you, you'll keep on living like that till Jesus comes and you'll feel so ashamed when He comes. And that's why I want to challenge you.

Don't waste your life like the years I wasted. And if you wasted it till now, start from today and say, Lord, I want to take this seriously. I see now, Lord, when you created man, how you wanted him to live.

You wanted him to live the way Jesus lived on the earth. That's why God was so delighted at the baptism of Jesus. And He said, this is my beloved son.

I'm so well pleased with him. It says Enoch walked with God and he pleased God, but that was nothing compared to Jesus. Enoch didn't have an inner life.

He pleased God according to the level at which he lived. He didn't have the Holy Spirit. You know, it's like if a child in the first grade knows his ABC and can't add 2 plus 2 and the few little things they learn in first grade or in the kindergarten and he gets an A plus when he passes out and he gets 100%.

He can't get more than that. He's done well. He's done wonderfully.

That's the way Enoch pleased God. It was kindergarten stuff. But when it says that Jesus, when God said about Jesus that I'm well pleased with him, that was Ph.D. stuff.

God was happy with every aspect of Jesus' life. The other day, I was reading Scripture and this word which I'd read so many times came home to me afresh. That we were created to give Him pleasure.

In Revelation, in chapter 4, it says in the last verse, Worthy art thou, O Lord, our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For Thou didst create all things, and for Thy pleasure they were created. Everything was created to bring pleasure to God.

And I think of myself. I mean, the trees and the animals don't know that. But I know it.

Because I was made in God's image. Do you know it? Do you know that you were not created to make money? You were not created to be a millionaire. You were not created to enjoy yourself.

You were created to please God. And when you understand the purpose of your creation, you'll have the most satisfying life, the most enjoyable life that you can ever live. That's a byproduct.

But if you pursue enjoyment, your enjoyment, your joy will dry up. I can testify to that in the years that I have begun to understand the purpose of my... Why God saved me? Why was I born again? The Lord saved me in order that I might live as Jesus lived. And demonstrate to an unbelieving generation that it is possible to live in the conscious area of our life as Jesus lived.

I want to clarify that so that we don't imagine that we have become totally like Jesus. You know, there are two parts of our life. One which we are conscious of.

And there's a whole area of our life we are unconscious of. 90% of our life, we can't see. There are areas of my life where I'm still un-Christ like but I can't see them.

To use yesterday's illustration, it's like those giants in Canaan who are still hidden in some holes and some mountains. I can't see them. I can't kill them till I see them.

I can only kill the giants I see. So, the conscious areas of my life, the areas where the Holy Spirit shows me, that was not Christ like. I remember once, many years ago, we have a lot of beggars in India.

Poor beggars in ragged clothes. And I was so foolish that I once spoke rudely to one of them. Boy, I wept.

I repented when the Holy Spirit said to me, if that person were dressed in a suit and a tie, you wouldn't have spoken to him like that. And I said, Lord, forgive me. Let me see every human being as someone who was created in God's image.

Whoever he is. Let me never in my life from this day despise another human being. It doesn't matter what the color of their skin is.

It doesn't matter whether they are poor. It doesn't matter whether they are educated, illiterate, foolish. They may have habits that repel me.

Because they are poor. They are not civilized. I want to live.

I want to treat human beings the way Jesus treated them. Jesus felt that beggar or that uncultured person whom some people despise, Jesus felt that person was worthy to die for. You know, when I began to see that God created me in a way to please him, and I saw how Jesus pleased the Father, it began to affect every area of my life.

Began to affect the way I viewed people. The way I viewed people who differed from me in their understanding of Christianity or Hindus, idol worshippers. I could no longer despise an idol worshipper.

I knew he was wrong. I knew it was wrong. But the poor man from childhood, he was taught that he doesn't know any better.

How can I save him if I despise him? I saw how Jesus loved sinners. I saw how Jesus loved this woman in Samaria who was divorced five times and was now sleeping with a man who was not even her husband. Yeah, to live as Jesus lived, I tell you, it's amazing.

And when you look at the way he lived, you say, how is it possible for me to live like that? The answer is in the Holy Spirit. And that's why I say, to know the power of the Holy Spirit is the most important thing in the Christian life. Today we have so many Christians who are fighting for doctrine.

What all things Christians are fighting for? We must use the King James Version. We must fight for this doctrine. Brother, if you're not filled with the Holy Spirit, you can fight for all these things and have such tremendous regret when you stand before the Lord because you saw you were fighting for the wrong things.

John says in 1 John 4, I told you, this is a 95-year-old man who's walked with God for 65 years. He saw the shallowness of the Christendom around him, how it had backslidden from the days of Pentecost. And it says here in 1 John 4, verse 17, another favorite verse of mine.

The last part. As Jesus is, so are we. I make it personal.

So am I in this world. Do you dare to say that? Do you dare to say, as Jesus is, so am I in this world. Why are we scared to say that? I'm just quoting Scripture because nobody's told us, shown us these verses in Scripture.

We've been told the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Think if you had never heard that. You would never be able to know that your sins are all forgiven.

How can we have faith if we don't hear God's Word? Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ. So here's the Word of Christ. Here's what John the Apostle, after 65 years of walking with God, if you can trust him, I can.

I don't believe he's a liar. Looking at the degenerate state of Christendom, this is what he says. Brothers and sisters, little children, have faith in this, as Jesus is, so are we in this world.

And I believe if the Apostle John were to come to our midst today, and see the degenerate state of Christendom, occupied with so many gimmicks, teaching psychology more than God's Word, would say the same thing. A Christian must walk as Jesus walked. John the Apostle spoke in tongues for 65 years.

He'd experienced healing. He'd healed the sick. He'd probably raised the dead as well.

But he never says a word about these things in this last letter. Because he knows those are... He has those things, thank God for all of that. But those are not the main things.

Read 1 John, one of the last books of the Bible, written by a man who saw the degenerate state of Christendom around him. And you know what he talks about mainly? That Jesus came in the flesh. He lived like us.

And we can walk as He walked. I was saying yesterday how at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, I believe that the Sermon on the Mount replaced the Ten Commandments for Christians. So many Christians are concerned about the Ten Commandments.

There are many Christians in this country who got disturbed because some tablet of the Ten Commandments could not be put in some public place or in some court. I wouldn't waste my time fighting about that. I'd say why not have the Sermon on the Mount which has replaced the Ten Commandments.

Why not that be written in our hearts? Why not that be demonstrated in our life? That disturbs me more than the Ten Commandments is not put on some park or something like that. You know the silly things Christians fight about? It's amazing. What's the use? Prayer coming back into the schools which so many Christians fight about.

If Christians are not walking as Jesus walked, all the prayer in schools is not going to convert people. The greatest need for Christians in America or India or any part of the world, I'll tell you, is not to put a tablet of Ten Commandments in some park. It's not to get prayer back in the schools.

It's for Christians to walk as Jesus walked in their homes. For Christian husbands to behave like Jesus towards their wives. For Christian wives to behave like Jesus towards their husbands.

For Christian parents to bring up their children, to teach them to walk and live as Jesus lived when he was a child. Do you have to wait till you're 30 years old to live as Jesus lived? Why did God send Jesus to earth as a little baby? So that all people of all ages could have an example. Five-year-olds.

We can tell five-year-old children, how did Jesus behave when he was five-year-old? That's your example, my son, my girl. We've got to teach them from childhood what Christendom never taught us, never taught me when I was born again. That you must walk as Jesus walked.

And when that child struggles and finds it's impossible, you can teach that child, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I believe little children can be filled with the Holy Spirit. I believe they can be born again.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit. I also believe people can lose their salvation. So we need to walk consistently day by day by day.

That's why Jesus said, you've got to take up the cross every day. Who's going to help us to do that? The Holy Spirit. There's a verse in Romans chapter 8 which says, You know, this has helped me a lot when I think of people who claim today to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8. You know, I see preachers today who claim to be Spirit-filled and doing so many things. In Romans chapter 8, it says, verse 9, the last part. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he doesn't belong to Him.

Now, I'm not teaching theology from there. When I look at a preacher and I don't see the Spirit of Christ in him, I say, I don't care for him. I don't care if he does miracles.

I don't care how well he preaches. I don't care one more bit for him. I'm not interested in listening to him at all.

It's the Spirit of Christ I look for. That's why I say, if you want to be protected from false teachers, just ask yourself, what is this person's attitude to money? Is it the same as Jesus' attitude to money? Is he a humble person like Jesus was? If not, I'm not interested. I don't care what stories he has to tell about the angels he saw and the visits to heaven he had and all this rubbish that's going on in Christendom today or all the doctrines he's preaching.

I'm not interested. You know what I'm looking for? The Spirit of Christ. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he doesn't belong to him.

One day he's going to hear Jesus say, depart from me. I never knew you. Do we see what is the most important thing? And when we see that, like I said yesterday, you can read the Sermon on the Mount and come to the end of it and say, did you just read it and move on to chapter 8 of Matthew? I used to do that.

Oh, I finished chapter 7 yesterday. Today my chapter is chapter 8. My Bible reading. You know, I have sometimes spent months and months on Matthew 5, 6 and 7. I've sometimes spent days on just one or

two verses in the early verses of Matthew 5. I couldn't get past it.

I was more interested in the Bible going through me than me going through the Bible. Lord, how can I live this life? How can I live it? Do you have that cry when you read Matthew 5, 6 and 7? That's the life Jesus lived. When Jesus spoke those words, it wasn't a sermon he prepared the previous Friday or something.

No. It was something he had lived for 30 years. And he spoke from his heart the life he lived.

And I see in Matthew 5, 6 and 7 how Jesus lived. Blessed are the poor in spirit. To me, that is the key that opens the whole of the Sermon on the Mount.

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Kingdom of heaven is like a huge treasure house with many, many rooms of treasures. And it's got one master key.

To be poor in spirit. You can become the richest Christian on earth. Spiritually, I mean.

If you understand what it means to be poor in spirit. And it's the poor in spirit who can be very easily filled with the Holy Spirit. So many people are pursuing, how can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? I said yesterday about how we need to lay everything on the altar before the fire of God can fall on it.

I would urge you to ask God to give you revelation on what it means to be poor in spirit. And the way I try to understand it, you know, Jesus sometimes explains truth with illustrations. So, I knew what it was to be poor in body by looking at extremely poor beggars in my own country.

You may not have that experience here. But in India, we have frequently this experience of beggars coming to our gate, knocking there, and saying, give me something. And you give him something, give him money or food or whatever it is.

He'll be back the next day. And you say, hey, I gave you something yesterday. Say, that's over.

I don't have anything. I'm needy again. And I see that is poverty.

Poverty is to have so little that you're so dependent on going to some rich person and say, can you give me something? And you're not ashamed. They're not ashamed to keep coming back and asking again every day. And I learned what it is to be poor in spirit.

It means to always be aware of my spiritual need. Say, Lord, I'm a needy person. And I come to you.

Yes, I was filled with spirit yesterday. But that was for yesterday. It's like the beggar says, what you gave me yesterday is over.

I'm coming again. There's a lovely verse in Proverbs that talks about this. That defines, as it were, what a man who is poor in spirit does.

Proverbs 8, verse 34 and 35. You know the book of Matthew chapter 5 begins with blessed are the poor in spirit. Here it says in Proverbs 8, verse 34.

I think it's an Old Testament illustration of what it means to be poor in spirit. I think of the beggar who comes to the gate of my house asking for money or food or clothes or something. The Lord says, blessed is the man who listens to me watching daily at my gates.

And I think of that beggar coming and knocking at the gate. And saying, please give me something, sir. And I'm supposed to be like that.

Going to God. Waiting at my door post. And you know, some of these beggars, if you didn't hear them knock, they keep on standing there for a long time.

And I ask myself, do I go to God like that? God, I need something for today. I wait before you. Mary sat at Jesus' feet like that.

Martha was busy serving. And she thought she was doing the most important thing. Do you know Christendom is full of people who think that if you serve God, you're doing the most important thing.

There are millions of Marthas. It's about one to a million, what I have seen, among those who understand that sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him is more important than serving Him. And all the people who think they are serving the Lord think that they are doing the most important thing for God.

I'm doing this, I'm doing that, I'm doing the other thing. And they may even complain about the people who don't seem to be doing something for the Lord. That's one mark of a lot of people who serve the Lord.

They're very critical of others. Mary didn't criticize Martha. It was Martha who criticized Mary.

Which category are you? Mary had no time to criticize Martha. She was too occupied with Jesus. You start criticizing people when you're not occupied with Jesus.

I'll tell you that. I guarantee you develop the habit of sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him. You'll have no time to find fault with Marthas or anybody else.

When a beggar comes to my gate of my house, he's thinking about his own hunger. And that's how we're to come. Blessed is the person who listens to me.

That's why Jesus said to Martha, Martha, you're worried about a lot of things. I know you're very unselfishly serving me out there, but I'm not interested in that. There's one thing needful for a Christian, and that's not serving me, it's listening to me first.

I thank God that that's one thing at least I learned. Nobody taught me that. That's another thing I never heard anybody preach to me.

That there's one thing needful. To listen to Jesus. But I learned it and I'm very thankful that that's one thing I learned when I was a very young person.

To learn to listen. How can you listen? Unless you open your being to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's voice.

That's why it's so important. Every area of our life, we got to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We got to be humble to acknowledge our need.

Lord, I'm a needy person. I come to you, please, please give me what I need for today. I want to be an overcomer today.

I want to walk as Jesus walked today. Blessed is the person who listens to me, watches daily at my gates, waiting at my doorpost, who's not in a hurry to run away. No, he's not coming.

You know, he's not one of these drive-through. Okay, Lord, quickly tell me quick, I've got to go on. A lot of people try to come to the Lord like that.

You don't get anything. There's no drive-through in the kingdom of heaven. You got to wait there.

You got to wait and wait and wait and wait. And if you get impatient and go away, well, you're the loser. Those who wait upon the Lord, what does it say in Isaiah 40 verse 31? They will rise up with wings like eagles.

Is that your experience? It was not my experience for so many years of my Christian life. I was born again, baptized, and following all the rules of Christianity. But I didn't know what it was to rise up like a wing, with the wings of an eagle.

Do you know the mountains and rivers that hinder your progress don't disturb an eagle one bit? You get stuck when you come to a river. You and I get stuck when we come to a mountain. Eagle says, oh, that's no problem, just fly across it.

Do you find your life is like that as a Christian? You come to some problem, you get stuck, Lord, how to get across this? And then you come across a mountain. You know what you need to do? Wait upon the Lord, and He will make you, He'll fill you with His Spirit, and you'll rise up like the eagle. I've discovered that.

I'm telling you from my own experience. I don't have 65 years of experience like John had, but I have at least about 25 years of experience since I began to understand these truths. A lot of half of my life, Christian life, I didn't understand it.

But in the last few years that I've understood it, I've seen it's really true. God's grace is sufficient for every situation we can ever face in life. If I come poor in spirit, the whole kingdom of heaven is mine.

It's yours, brother, sister. The devil has blinded your eyes from the wealth, the spiritual wealth that can be yours. You can be more than a conqueror in every situation.

You're not supposed to be a defeated, depressed type of person. Don't let the devil give you wrong pictures of what the normal Christian life is. I've had preachers tell me, Oh, I'm discouraged and depressed, but Elijah was depressed too.

So I suppose I'm not better than him. I tell them, Well, if Elijah is the author and finisher of your faith, brother, you will be depressed. I fully agree.

But the author and finisher of my faith is not Elijah. It's Jesus. Tell me, when did he sit under a juniper tree and say, Oh, father, I'm better with my life.

Never. I don't walk as Elijah walked. I'm not gonna be like Peter, saying, Lord, this is wonderful.

Let's make three tabernacles for Moses and Elijah and Jesus. I don't equate Moses and Elijah with Jesus. Sorry.

I don't make three tabernacles for them. You know what happened when Peter said that? A cloud came. And God removed Moses and Elijah and said, Don't you dare compare my son with Moses and Elijah.

And it says they lifted up their eyes and they saw Jesus only. I see Jesus only. I don't see Elijah sitting under a depressed tree as my example.

I heard one of these famous television preachers who was living in adultery and was finally caught with a prostitute after years of preaching to millions and making millions of dollars. But he came back on television, folded his hands and said, David also fell into adultery. He came back.

Well, I agree. If Christ has not come, the Holy Spirit's not poured out. David's a very good example to follow.

But you better preach the Old Covenant then. You're an Old Testament preacher. If you're a New Testament preacher, tell me where Paul did that.

Did Paul live secretly in adultery? Did Paul keep on asking people for money? We got a lot of Old Testament preachers preaching an Old Testament message. The Old Testament message, you read Deuteronomy 28, was health and wealth. It was not overcoming sin.

Not one preacher, Moses and Elijah didn't say you could overcome sin. No. They said if you obey God you'll be wealthy, you'll be healthy.

They also said you'll have many children. That's the part many people don't want. But that is all there in the Old Testament gospel.

It is pick and choose what you like. But the New Testament gospel is, you shall call his name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. That's what Christ came to do.

Not only forgive our sins, but to save us from our sin. To help us to walk as Jesus walked. How shall we do it? Here's the answer.

Wait until you're filled with the Holy Spirit. And you shall receive power to be my witnesses. It's not a technique.

I'm not going to give you three easy steps to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you have a hunger and a thirst. There's a longing in your heart which says, Lord, I will never rest till I've understood the secret of walking as Jesus walked.

The most beautiful life this world has ever seen. He wasn't a millionaire. But he went about doing good.

Accomplishing God's purpose on earth. That's the way we're supposed to live. Do you find that challenges your heart? It does mine.

And I pray that we shall have a hunger. I believe the whole purpose of preaching is to create in us a hunger. Not to give us answers.

If I gave you all the answers, you wouldn't need to go to God. And that's why the Bible is written in such a way that you don't get all the answers. And the best preaching is that which doesn't give you all the answers.

That drives you to God. And say, Oh God, I want to get in touch with you. And I hope you've had that desire this morning.

Let's bow our heads in prayer. The Word of God says that he who comes to God. Are you coming to God right now in prayer? Let me tell you something.

If you come to God, you must believe that he's a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. It's useless coming to God if you don't believe that. Don't waste your time praying or even saying something silently in your mind if you don't believe that he's a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

I want to challenge you to believe that. Father, I'm coming to you believing that you are a rewarder of all who diligently seek you and that there is no partiality with you. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you. I believe you will meet with many of us this day. Turn our lives around and make it a turning point in our life.

That our whole life is going to be raised to a higher level. We thank you, Father. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/17/SID17436.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/spirit-filled-life-part-5-poverty-of-spirit/>

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