



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

EIGHT STEPS TO ETERNAL
BLESSED LIVING!
MATTHEW 5 3-12!



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Eight Steps to Eternal Blessed Living (Matthew 5:3–12)

Lest we forget Jesus' steps to "blessed living," let's review. Basically, a review is learning by repetition. We learn everything best by repetition. That's how we learned our multiplication tables, such as 6×6 or 9×9. The best way to remember names is by repeating them at least seven times. Repetition is also how to obey what command in Psalm 119:11? Therefore, to hide the Beatitudes in our hearts, we must repeat them. The Beatitudes are given in a divine progression, giving us eight steps to lasting happiness ...



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Step One: Admit our sinfulness (5:3)

Jesus calls this admitting we are “poor in spirit” (5:3), which means acknowledging our spiritual poverty and declaring we are sinners in need of forgiveness. The immediate reward “is the kingdom of heaven.” The verb is in present tense. This means we don’t have to wait until we die and go to heaven to enjoy at least two benefits of heaven. 1. Communication with heaven. We can pray to God; and where is He? In heaven. Yet, unlike most cell phone contracts, we have unlimited minutes. We can “call” heaven anytime without roaming fees. How does Hebrews 4:16 express this benefit?

2. Wisdom from heaven. Even though we must live on earth for a while longer, we can receive wisdom from heaven now. Many people’s lives are financial, relational, emotional, or spiritual wrecks because of a lack of wisdom. However, part of “blessed living,” after admitting our spiritual poverty, is we can take advantage of what promise in James 1:5?



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024



When we admit
our sinfulness,
we can
immediately
begin enjoying
some of the
benefits of the
kingdom of
heaven.

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Step Two: Agonize over our sin (5:4)

The intellectual recognition of our sin leads us to mourn over it so we can be comforted (5:4). The guilt of sin is a very heavy burden to bear. How does Psalm 51:8 describe the burden of guilt?

Guilt takes joy and gladness out of life. Bones being broken refers to a broken spirit caused by guilt.



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

God has designed us so when we sin, our guilt makes us miserable; thus, we will be drawn to Him for relief. Then, we will experience “blessed living” like nothing this world can offer.

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Step Three: Act with meekness (5:5)

Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (5:5). The word meek doesn’t mean weak; it means “power under control,” like that of a horse controlled by its master to do useful work. Meekness is submitting our lives to the control of Jesus Christ. If we are meek, we will understand the meaning of 2 Peter 3:18a. Write it below:



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Jesus doesn't just want to be our Savior; He wants to be our Lord as well. The word translated Lord means master or boss.

If we are meek and allow Jesus to be our Lord, we will inherit the earth (Mt 5:5). This refers to the new earth described in Revelation 21.

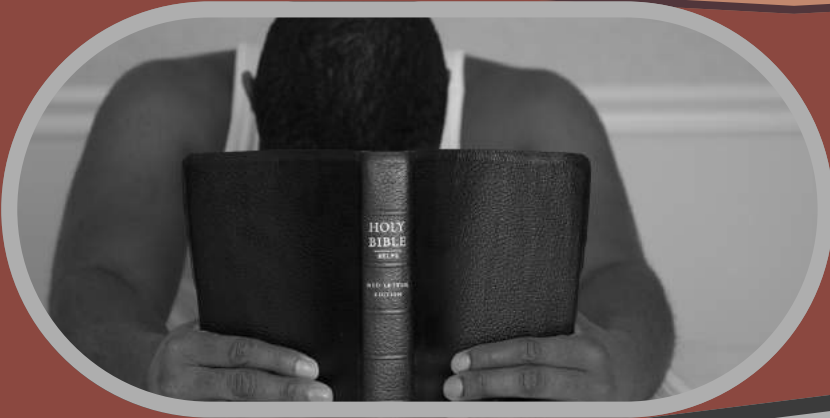
Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024



Step Four: **Aspire to righteousness** **(5:6)**

The natural result of allowing Jesus to become our Lord is the fourth beatitude —a hunger for righteousness like a starving man hungers for food (5:6). We will starve for God's Word, which tells us how to live righteously. We will experience what the psalmist wrote in Psalm 119:103. Write it below:

If you lose your physical appetite, something is wrong with your physical health.

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024



If you do not hunger for God's Word, something is wrong with your spiritual health. If so, you need a spiritual check-up by revisiting the previous three steps, asking yourself questions like, "Have I confessed all my sins? Am I truly sorry for my sin? Is Jesus really the Lord of my life?"

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024



Step Five: Allocate mercy (5:7)

Jesus puts it like this:
“Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive
mercy” (5:7). Being
merciful means we are
compassionate and
helpful, like the Good
Samaritan (Lk 10:33). It is
being unselfish with our
time, talents, and treasure.

Merciful people are
“happy helpers.” What
command does Jesus give
us in Luke 6:36?

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Jesus said the reward
for being merciful is
we will obtain mercy
(Mt 5:7). On judgment
day, we will all need as
much of God's mercy
as we can get, and the
only way to get it is by
being merciful
(Jas. 2:13).

Cont. to Next Page....



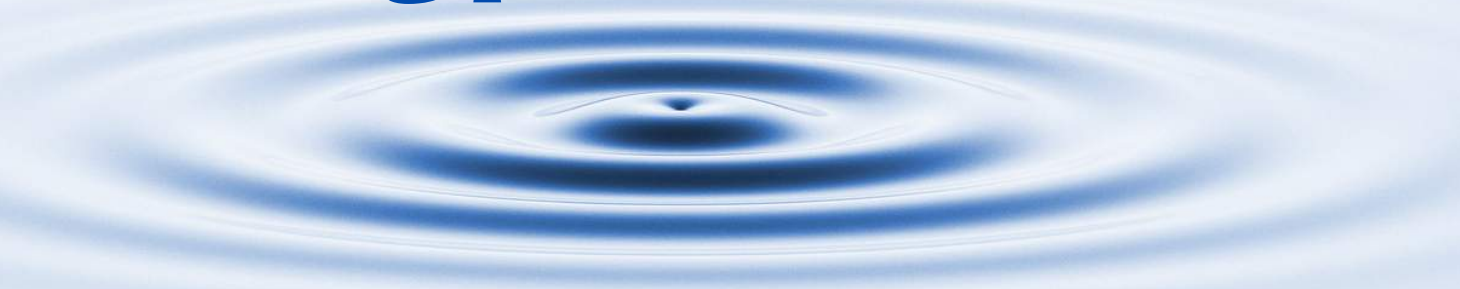
HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Step Six: Avoid impurity (5:8)

Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart” (5:8a). The word pure means free from defilement or contamination. Basically, it is to be “holy.” How does the last phrase of James 1:27 describe being pure in heart?



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

The blessing of being pure in heart is we “shall see God” because purity of heart changes our focus. We can then see God in places, people, and problems, as we discovered in Lesson Seven.



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Step Seven: Attempt peacemaking (5:9)

When we are right with God because we are pure in heart, we will want all relationships to be right. Therefore, we will be peacemakers (5:9). To be peacemakers, we must seek peace or reconciliation in all our relationships and between all our acquaintances. This means obeying what command in Romans 14:19?

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

To be peacemakers, we must do everything we can to heal relationships, rather than aggravate or inflame them. Peacemakers bring people together, rather than polarizing or dividing them. If we are peacemakers, we will “be called sons of God.” This is because our lives will reflect the character of God, who five times in the New Testament is called the God of peace (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; Philip. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; & Heb. 13:20).



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

Step Eight: Accept persecution (5:10–12)

If we live by the previous seven steps, the natural result in this world will be the eighth beatitude:

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (5:10). Our sinful culture pressures us to conform through verbal and covert persecution. So, if we are committed to righteousness and being pure in heart, we will be persecuted. Then, we need to remember what fact in Hebrews 12:3?



Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

We can rejoice when we suffer rejection or harassment, because at no time can we sense a greater identification with Christ than when we are persecuted for living righteously.

The first and last beatitudes end with the phrase: "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3; 5:10). The blessings of heaven are present and future. As already mentioned, in the present we have communication with heaven and the wisdom of heaven. In the future, God will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and never again will we experience death, mourning, crying, or pain because the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:4). How does Psalm 34:8 sum up the beatitudes

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024



In verse eleven, Jesus expands on the eighth beatitude by saying we will be “blessed ... when others revile you ... and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” Then, Jesus tells us how we should respond to persecution: “Rejoice and be glad” (5:12a). How can we do that? By remembering our “reward is great in heaven” (5:12b). Any persecution we endure in this life will pale in comparison to our “great” reward in heaven. Besides that, persecution puts us in really great company. Jesus reminds us: “for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (5:12c). So, we will be in the company of Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc. That’s really good company!

Cont. to Next Page....



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

February 19th 2024

**THE BEATITUDES CONTAIN
EIGHT STEPS TO ETERNAL
BLESSED LIVING. EACH STEP
MUST BE TAKEN IN THE DIVINE
ORDER GIVEN AND BECOME A
PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES IF WE
ARE TO CONTINUE OUR
“JOURNEY INTO BLESSED
LIVING.”**

*Rev. Dr. Major Stewart, Pastor
Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church*