

**PREPARATION FOR THE ENDTIMES**

**THE KEYS TO**

*Living In*

**THE KINGDOM**

Revealed in the Beatitudes

**JOHN CORIN**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the New King James Version, Holy Bible.  
Copyright © 1979,1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson Inc. Publishers.

Used by permission.

© Copyright 2024 by John Corin

All rights reserved under International Copyright Law.  
Contents and/or covers may NOT be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the publisher.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTERS.....</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
PREFACE .....	3
CHAPTER 1 .....	6
CHAPTER 2 .....	17
CHAPTER 3 .....	32
CHAPTER 4 .....	41
CHAPTER 5 .....	50
CHAPTER 6 .....	66
CHAPTER 7 .....	71
CHAPTER 8 .....	80
CHAPTER 9 .....	101
CHAPTER 10 .....	110
CHAPTER 11 .....	118
CHAPTER 12 .....	126
THANK YOU .....	133
ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....	134

## PREFACE

Writing this book has not been easy; shaping the text into a readable if somewhat prosaic treatise has taken more than ten years. Yet the main difficulty has been elsewhere; I have not been allowed to write without the subject becoming ‘flesh’ in my life and this has meant several ‘time-outs’ to wrestle with the issues brought to my attention. Even long recesses to apply the precepts it highlights.

*‘Wisdom has built her house...hewn out seven pillars’* (Prov 9:1). Several options for what these seven pillars could be have been proposed. I, however, identify them with the pillars of wisdom the Beatitudes (seven of the eight ‘fit the bill’) provide to form the important foundation for the Sermon on the Mount’. The fundamental truths highlighted in the Beatitudes are what the tenets in this discourse all rest upon.

Now, I left the Beatitudes alone for many years, like others, afraid to tackle what these seven plus one ‘blessings’ could mean for believers today. I dismissed them either as too enigmatic, radical, or dangerous, certainly too difficult to apply in practice. (Some even teach the sermon was for the Jews and not for new covenant believers!) However, some ten years ago these Beatitudes were forcefully brought to my attention. I could not get them out of my mind (even if I wanted to) and

made not only to grapple with their meaning for today but also with the consequences of failing to embrace them.

By delivering this ‘Sermon on the Mount’, scholars point to it as an opportunity for Jesus to portray Himself as the new Moses—the promised prophet (Deut 18.15)—and give advance notice of the ‘laws’ to govern the soon-to-be-inaugurated Kingdom of God. The Beatitudes are the important preamble to the tenets of this new realm. That is, as the ‘Ten Commandments’ provide the prologue to the Mosaic Law, the ‘laws’ of this new spiritual Kingdom rest upon the precepts in these seven (plus one) ‘blessings’. Believers failing to embrace these fundamental principles disqualify themselves from enjoying the Kingdom’s life. By contrast, each Beatitude promises much to those willing to fulfill the conditions.

Though seemingly random, each ‘blessing’ inter-connects with the others to build the edifice of repentance; each a building block with the insight to walk in this biblical discipline. Together, offering sorely needed truth for the millions of believers today with only a vague idea about repentance after it went out of fashion as a sermon topic. But even when seen as still in force, it is mostly regarded as an easy stroll, and then, not very relevant. The Beatitudes prove otherwise to reveal it requires more than a simple understanding of repentance to enjoy the life of the Kingdom. Now, if you have difficulty accepting this link between repentance and the Beatitudes, please read through my book before making a final judgment. By then, I believe you will be persuaded the tenets in the Beatitudes are critical to enjoying Kingdom life. Walking in repentance is the key to enjoying its, *‘righteousness, peace and*

*joy'* (Rom 14.17 ). In the final chapter I point to why the last Beatitude is much different from the rest.



point to the danger of ministers becoming celebrities with large followings with some even attracting hero worship. Many now ‘perform’ to vast audiences addicted to extravagant and dramatic ‘ear-tickling’ preaching, ecstatic prophesying, or healing and deliverance by ‘miracle workers’. Add to this the numerous believers committing sins dishonoring God’s Name and bringing shame to His cause and it all points to a church in deep decline.

To witness the moral scandals and decline in the ‘camp’ where I belong—the charismatic or Pentecostal—has been especially disheartening. Especially when these novel changes in doctrine and practice are often ‘modernizations’ undermining the ‘*decency and order*’ (1Cor 14.40) ordained for the church. Some of them, seriously damaging its calling to be the ‘*pillar and ground of truth*’ (1Tim 3.15). The adulteration of values and beliefs has certainly left in its wake numerous believers now with spiritual ‘maladies’, some with ‘cancers’ threatening their eternal destiny. I sometimes wonder if the church will ever recover from this; indeed, if it does, I suspect it will necessitate a severe pruning of the ‘*true vine*’ (Jhn 15.1ff). A radical but necessary solution if the Lord is to have the ‘*assemblies on Mt Zion*’ (Is 4.5) overseen by shepherds with, ‘*integrity and skill*’ (Ps 78.72).

Some of this debasement of the faith ‘*once delivered to the saints*’ (Jude 3) has been observed from a distance and some at close quarters. The unhealthy, even pathological ‘discipleship shepherding’ movement of the ’60s was one I observed firsthand after a group subscribing to this heresy joined the church where I fellowshiped for a short period. Now, the



worst excesses of this teaching could not be blamed on the ‘five’ ministries, yet it spawned numerous examples of non-biblical control over the ‘sheep’. I also witnessed close up the ‘hyper-faith’ movement with its radical teaching on ‘confession’ and ‘standing on the word’ (‘blab it and grab it’ in colloquial terms). Plus, I served alongside ministers who embraced the ‘egalitarian’ interpretation of the authority of women in the church; only to see this ‘feminist’ reaction to divine order create confusion.

Another alarming trend witnessed was the ‘health and wealth gospel’; only to see its followers often infected with carnal greed and an inordinate desire for riches. And before retiring from ministry, I was a member of a church that embraced the ‘Toronto Blessing’. Suffice it to say, what I witnessed was dubious, a mixture at best and at worst, demonic. It fell far short of the authentic divine visitation enjoyed by the assembly I attended more than fifty years ago. These threats (some more than others) have injured not only the health of the church but aided in the ungodly regarding the church. ~~Some of these changes to doctrine and praxis have been less radical, yet still troubling.~~ One example is making the corporate gathering a ‘spectator sport’, i.e., an entertaining ‘concert’ with loud, amplified percussive music, strobing lights, and smoke machines. This plus the platform singers dominating the corporate singing experience so the congregants tune out the clamor to passively watch the ‘performance’. Add the trend to sing overly rhythmic egocentric choruses to percussive music catering more to the soul, and this has all but sidelined true ‘worship in spirit’, the prophetic song of the Lord, and vocal gifts of the Holy Spirit. On top of all that, we have a plethora of pulpits peddling warm and

fuzzy ‘lifestyle preaching’ on attaining success, fulfilling a personal ‘dream’, and ‘achieving a destiny’. This feel-good pap and other topics has left little room for the ‘preaching of the Cross’ and the call to pursue holiness.

The current reliance on psychology and ‘psychobabble’ to provide counsel for troubled souls is yet another sign of decline; as in other fields of ministry, brass shields have been substituted for gold ones (See 1Kgs 14.27). Another concern is the current fondness of ministers to seek academic awards to gain recognition. Now, I am not against advanced studies of scripture (I taught in such institutions) but when this trend fosters carnal pride and dependence on the ‘arm of flesh’, it is a dangerous trap. Yet, as much as these signs of decline are a worry, my unease has more to do with the low spiritual life evident in so many believers, even those supposedly consecrated to the Lord. This and the insipid pursuit of holiness—another trend—now has a growing number of believers exhibiting lifestyles anything but devoted to intimacy with the Lord.

Not only do believers exhibit behavior dishonoring to God, many also hold beliefs unfaithful to biblical truth, another sign of a token adherence to the faith. And rather than live as true disciples, believers now are adopting lifestyles of the world; either slavishly following its fashions or watching its immoral and violent entertainment when glued to the TV or the internet. Since Constantine made it ‘easy’ to be a Christian, the church has always had a ‘mixed multitude’, but this debasement in standards has snowballed to see many with priorities far from the mandate to *‘set your mind on things above NOT on things*

*of this earth*’ (Col 3.2). Often chasing temporal success, be it fame, fortune, or happiness; seeking the reward of *‘all things’* before *‘seek(ing) first the ‘Kingdom of God’* (Mt 6.33).

The deterioration has now reached the point where dishonesty and lack of integrity are epidemic among believers. So bad, some refuse to employ other believers for trade services because the ungodly are more trustworthy. To know the number of *‘christians’* cheating on paying taxes, their wives, or business partners would be an eye-opener. Add all this up, and the failures in behavior and doctrine (many not mentioned) strongly point to the time when the *‘love of many will grow cold’* (Mt 24.12) and it to find *‘faith’* (Lk 18.8) on the earth an open question. A scenario much closer than many imagine is occurring. More over, this is occurring for ease, acceptance, and popularity has believers opting to please themselves rather than, *‘deny self-daily and take up their cross’* (Lk 9.23). Too many pursue the comforts of an affluent lifestyle, as crucifying the *‘flesh’* is seen as too *‘legalistic’* and living sacrificial, consecrated lives is not exciting. Instead, the *‘pleasures of sin’* (Heb 11.25), the *‘deceitfulness of riches’* (Matt 13.22), and *‘things of this world’* (1Jhn 2.15) are sought. As to suffering *‘for righteousness sake’* (1Pet 3.14), this is far from the minds of many.

The possibility of discomfort, deprivation, or boredom in this new century sees the children of God behave more like Esau who, *‘sold his birthright’ for a ‘mess of pottage’* (Heb 12.16). An epidemic of backsliding into apathy and indifference to *‘heavenly things’* that has more than a few going further—either into unbelief or apostasy. Also hard to miss is the large swathe of believers still bound by habits and lusts of the flesh even many

years after ‘conversion’. If it’s not bondage to a serious sin, it is the inability to gain victory over cravings for food, entertainment, and excitement; often in the lust for sexual voyeurism, or an addiction to cigarettes, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

However, the more telling evidence of an unhealthy church is the number failing to maintain the spiritual disciplines of a follower of Christ. The widespread lapse in regular prayer, praise, reading, and study of the bible—all vital to pursuing a righteous life—is nothing short of alarming. This becomes a staggering number when those failing to regularly ‘*assemble together*’ (Heb 10.25) even in an informal ‘house fellowship’ get added. The number of ‘unchurched’ believers may, in fact, exceed the ‘churched’. Overall, in choosing to ‘go with the flow’ of the world, many are forgetting to be ‘*faithful in all things*’ (1Tim 3.11).

Summing up: too often, the difference between the conduct of the ungodly and many who claim to be ‘born again’ is negligible. To find a believer walking the pathway of separation from the world with a radically different lifestyle is rare. That is, a life so exceptional and distinctive it glorifies ‘*the Father in heaven*’ (Matt 5.16). The sad truth in all of this is many will only realize their poverty of spirit and lack of intimate knowledge of Christ on the day of reckoning when they hear, ‘*I never knew you*’ (Matt 7.23). Rejected because they failed to live a dedicated, holy life. To imagine a ‘nod to God’ rather than what is required of a disciple will not be punished is more than naive.

This decline in spiritual life has seen believers leave the historic churches in droves, at least in developed nations; every week, members walk out church doors refusing to endure the scarcity of spiritual life or the ‘shenanigans’ they witness. Seeing it as the only option to find genuine fellowship and experience ‘Kingdom life’, many go ‘outside the camp’ to gather in home fellowships or other unconventional gatherings. The more disillusioned choose to remain ‘un-churched’ even as they continue to live dedicated to the Lord. Not an ideal scenario, but they say better than the mess left behind.

I realize this cataloging of failures and errors is more than some like; it is unedifying, discouraging, and even depressing. But I purposely have spent this chapter identifying the ‘symptoms’ of a sick church to highlight a prescribed remedy—one far more edifying! Indeed, what I recommend to cure the patient will be heartening, hopefully, helping many to experience fresh life in the Kingdom of God. Now, is there a simple cure for this ‘sickness’ in the body of Christ, e.g., a course of ‘vitamins and supplements? Most ‘watchers’ concerned about this decline in faith don’t believe so. They see much stronger medicine is required if God’s purposes for the church are to be fulfilled before the end of this age, even surgery to cut off ‘*the branches not bearing fruit*’ (Jhn 15.2). I see it requiring surgery, medicinal treatment, and extensive rehabilitation to correct the symptoms the ‘patient’ presents—the full gamut of remedial attention.

With too many believers hanging on to falsehoods from humanistic understanding and demonic deception (new age beliefs in particular), it certainly calls for a return to biblical teaching.

Truth rectifies wrong mindsets, warped worldviews, and false beliefs, even when deeply entrenched and in grave error. But more than the false beliefs need correcting, a push to rectify the ‘soulish’ and worldly practices (despite their popularity) polluting the ‘temple’ of God must also be on the agenda. If biblical structures, ministries, and the worship God desires are to be restored, it requires both approaches.

My twin grandsons were born three months premature (at 900g and 1200g) because of insufficient nourishment in the womb and this has impacted their health. Numerous ‘followers’ of Christ suffer a similar deficiency, one of truth, and others, due to a premature ‘new-birth’, struggle to live as true disciples of Christ. Now, I realize more factors play into these problems with ‘new born’ believers, including a lack of conviction of sin, delay in being water baptized, and not experiencing the ‘Baptism in the Spirit’ (the third leg in a disciple’s biblical foundation). But whatever the cause, many start their new life in Christ ‘handicapped’, some with severe ‘disabilities’. This is why my book highlights a critical element missing from the modern ‘gospel diet’. As ‘folate’ in the mother’s diet during pregnancy prevents ‘spina bifida’ (a serious outcome), I am convinced a major part of the solution to this sad reality is the remedy proposed in these pages.

I refer to the missing element of REPENTANCE. The biblical tenet virtually absent from all current evangelism and in the discipling of believers. What we have instead is a ‘gospel’ best characterized as ‘easy believe-ism’; where the message of salvation asks little of a sinner other than to ‘ask Jesus into their heart’. A travesty of the ‘good news’ the church

is commanded to preach to make disciples. This lack of the call for repentance (a wholehearted turning away from sin) has left the church a deficient gospel, and as a result, false ‘converts’.

Restoring the truth of repentance won’t remedy all the ills of Christendom, but it will increase the number truly ‘born again’ and growing in grace. After reading my book, I trust you will agree with the remedy; even more, heed the exhortation to live for Christ by embracing a daily walk in repentance.

Though reticent to labor the focus of this chapter, I am compelled to add this comment by a gospel preacher I received recently.

### **AMERICA - HARDER or EASIER for CHRISTIANS?**

About a month ago during a time of great trial in my walk Jesus the Lord spoke to me about being a true follower of Him, not a nominal believer but a true follower. The word I heard was that America is the hardest place in the world to be a believer. This came as a shock to me, for I had often thought and commented on how easy we have it here. But what the Lord opened to me is how hard it is to walk with Him in this land of comfort. It is so easy to be distracted by the cares of this world in our nation, in fact so easy, we have created our own American doctrine to make us feel better about a land of comfort. Jesus, Jesus every meal it’s far easier to trust Him, and if meeting with a body of believers puts your life at risk, commitment would be easier. Let’s face it - we have built a “what’s in it for me” doctrine to fill our buildings and programs. What’s amazing is that we even believe that God has blessed us with all these distractions. We’re even taught to pray for them. After all, surely God wants us all to be rich

and happy. This very notion causes us to max out credit cards and other credit, so we can look the part. Even our churches fall for the “bigger-newer-nicer” lie! If we go back to the basic Gospel we can’t teach the American doctrine because the words of Christ dispel it completely. Even when Jesus gave us a model of how to pray He taught us to be dependent upon Him. “Give us this day our daily bread” is a simple request, isn’t it? Can you find a prayer for riches or possessions in it? Think about this - how can the Lord provide our daily bread when our cabinets, ice boxes, and freezers are full? Do you get the point?

Being a follower of Christ is almost impossible in our nation. So many of the things we say God blessed us with are distractions given to us by our adversary the devil designed to turn us away from Jesus. This is why we don’t see the power of God in our life, we simply don’t need it, or, in fact, want it. It would mean an end to our way of life and sure death to the American doctrine of feel-good religion—a bloodless, powerless conviction-less, and (last but not least) God-less faith.

The condition of the body today is sickening. We can’t even call sin “sin” anymore. I am ashamed of myself and other leaders who have let our walk slide so far. Starting with me I repent for the half-hearted service to the Lord and struggling with sin that should be put away. Help me Lord to walk worthy of your calling. In the last few days I have seen men that once walked with Jesus struggle with the world and struggle over issues that should not even be a consideration for a true follower of Christ. God help us to return to you with a pure heart, break us Lord, open our hearts to you.

In the next few days, we will be conducting prayer and repentancemeetings through our network of churches and house churches as well as out in the public arena... We must repent and cry out to God for our nation. We have slept long enough.



DARREN SMITH

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

