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**“SEARCHING THE BEATITUDES”**

Matthew 5:1-10 You are blessed, in spite of the situation.

Those that are poor in spirit., those that mourn., those that hunger., are blessed?

The belief that you are less.

A law of life says, “What you send forth, you get back.” “What you give, you receive.”

Lies we believe:

“I can’t help the way I am; I’ve always been this way.”

“It’s my nature and in my genes and can’t be changed.”

“My family background is responsible for my personality.”

“Well, I’m the result of my culture and times.”

**LIE! LIE! LIE!**

If you believe you must always be the way you have always been, you are believing a lie.

If you choose, you have the power to reject behavior, attitudes, and beliefs that are offensive.

Believing and living Scriptures is hard work.

“I can., to I will., to I am.” Phil. 4:4-7. Phil. 4:8-9.

While you may have been taught that you should “love thy neighbor as thyself,” in truth, to love others, it is helpful to love yourself also.

*“The love of thy neighbor hath its bounds in each mans love of himself.”* St. Augustine.

“True self-esteem belongs to the one who looks in the mirror, not to criticize or admire, but to see past physical appearance *into the essential child of God reflected there.*”

John Templeton.