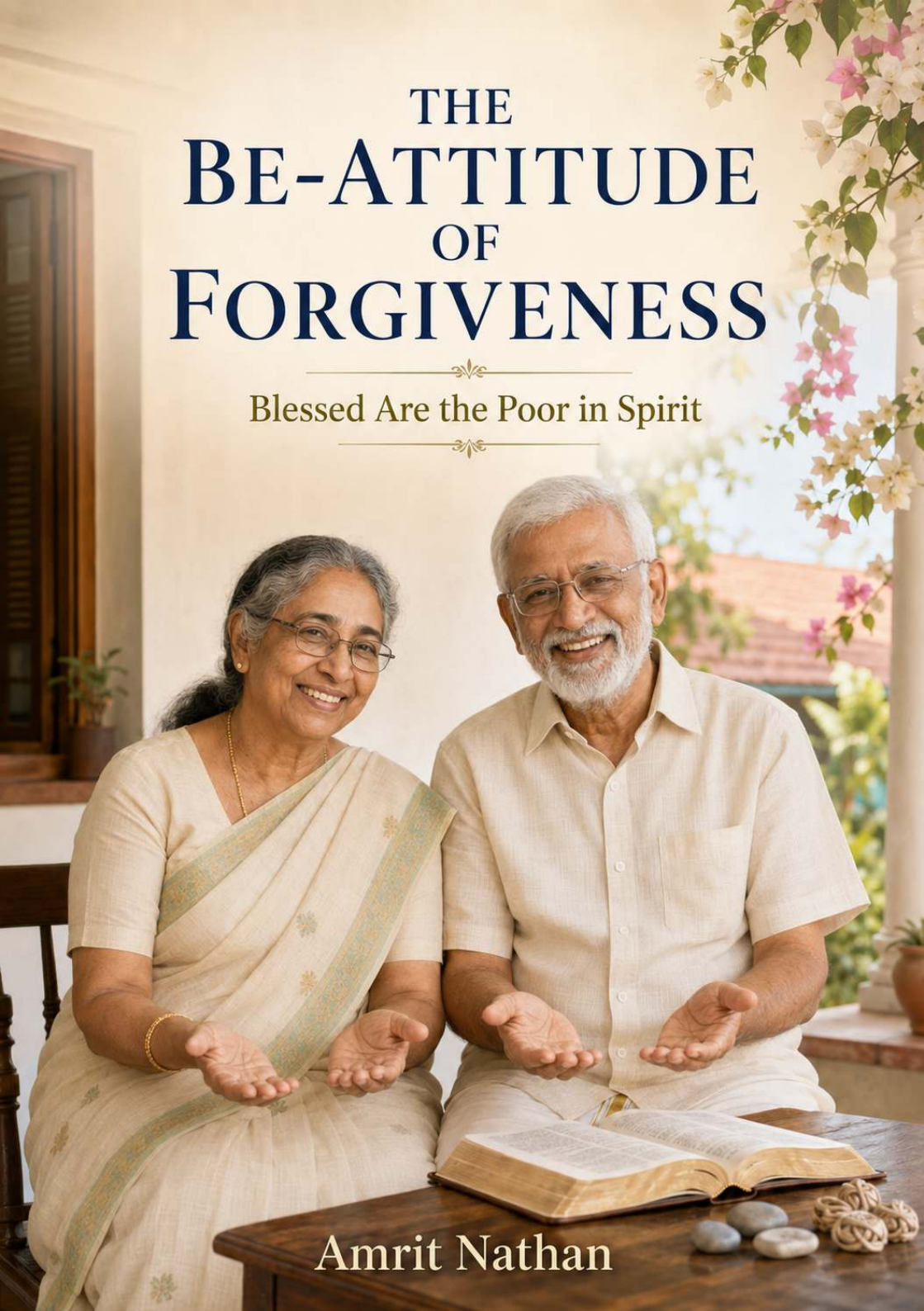


An elderly couple, a man and a woman, are seated at a dark wooden table. The woman, on the left, has grey hair and wears glasses, a gold necklace, and a gold bangle. She is dressed in a light-colored sari with a green border and small floral patterns. The man, on the right, has a white beard and glasses, and is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt. Both are smiling and have their hands open, palms up, in a gesture of offering or blessing. On the table in front of them lies an open book with yellowed pages. To the right of the book are several smooth, grey stones and a small, intricate knot made of light-colored rope. The background is a bright, sunlit room with a white wall. To the left, a wooden-framed doorway is visible. To the right, a window looks out onto a garden with green foliage and pink flowers. The overall atmosphere is warm and peaceful.

THE BE-ATTITUDE OF FORGIVENESS

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Amrit Nathan

THE BEATITUDE THAT PUZZLED ME

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

— Matthew 5:3, NKJV

Yahshua began His Sermon on the Mount with a statement that initially puzzled me. To my mind, the opposite seemed more reasonable.

Should not those who are spiritually rich inherit the Kingdom of God? Why would the Kingdom belong to those described as poor in spirit?

Yahshua is not praising spiritual ignorance or the absence of God's Spirit. To be poor in spirit is to recognize our complete dependence upon God.

The poor in spirit come with open hands, knowing that everything must be received from Him:

Mercy • Wisdom • Righteousness • Strength • Forgiveness

Pride says, 'I possess everything I need.'

Poverty of spirit says, 'Father, apart from You, I have nothing.'

This is the first Be-Attitude of the Kingdom—not merely something we believe, but the attitude we must learn to be.



UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE OPPOSITE

A simple interpretation technique helped me understand this difficult Beatitude. I rephrased Yahshua's statement using opposite words—not as a replacement for Scripture, but as a contrast that brings its meaning into focus.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.”

— Matthew 5:3, NKJV

The opposite would read:

“Cursed are the rich in the flesh, for theirs is the kingdom of darkness.”

POOR IN SPIRIT

- ❖ Humble before God
- ❖ Dependent upon the Father
- ❖ Conscious of the need for mercy
- ❖ Ready to forgive
- ❖ Kingdom of Light

RICH IN THE FLESH

- ❖ Confident in self
- ❖ Governed by pride
- ❖ Conscious of what others owe
- ❖ Determined to retaliate
- ❖ Kingdom of darkness

The flesh carefully records every injury and demands repayment. But the poor in spirit remember: ‘I also stand before God as one who needs mercy.’

**Forgiveness begins when pride loosens its claim
and humility releases the debt.**

The Kingdom we inherit is revealed by the attitude we choose to cultivate.



EMPTY ENOUGH TO FORGIVE



The flesh keeps a careful account of every offence.
It says: 'My dignity has been injured. Something is owed to me.'
Pride insists upon vindication. It wants the offender to apologize,
repay the loss, or suffer in return before forgiveness can be considered.

*But the poor in spirit remember that they also stand before God
as debtors who live entirely by His mercy.*

'If I need the Father's mercy every day, how can I refuse mercy to another?'



*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.
— James 4:6, NKJV*

Forgiveness does not declare the offence acceptable.
It does not deny the pain, remove wise boundaries,
or prevent justice from taking its proper course.

**Forgiveness simply surrenders pride's demand
to personally collect the debt.**

The poor in spirit come before God with empty hands—
ready to receive mercy and willing to extend it.

**The Kingdom belongs to those who are empty enough
to receive mercy—and humble enough to give it.**

