

Depending on God in the Dark (Speech) | Presenter: Deacon Benny Tiller

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Depending on God in the Dark: A Teachable Study Speech From Key “Poor in Spirit” Scriptures

Presenter: Deacon Benny Tiller

Occasion: Bible Study / Encouragement Message

Date: _____

Location: _____

Theme: Depending on God in our darkest moments emotionally and spiritually.

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SPEECH SCRIPT (Word-ready)

Opening (Read aloud)

Good evening. My name is **Deacon Benny Tiller**, and today I want to talk about what it means to depend on God in our darkest moments, emotionally and spiritually.

When the Bible speaks of being “poor in spirit,” it does not mean a person has no value. It means we recognize our need for God. It means we stop pretending we can carry everything alone. And the good news is this: God does not shame the needy, He meets them, restores them, and leads them.

As we study, I will do three things for each passage:

1. Give a simple summary,
2. Pull out a “Depend on God” lesson,
3. Offer a practice step for dark moments, what to do when you cannot feel strong.

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1) Matthew 5:3

Scripture focus: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

One-sentence summary:

Jesus says the spiritually needy are blessed because God’s kingdom belongs to people who know they cannot save themselves.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- The blessing is not in the pain itself, but in what the pain reveals: I need God.
- “Theirs is the kingdom” means access, belonging, and spiritual security are given, not earned.
- In darkness, dependence is not failure; it is the posture Jesus praises.

Practice step for dark moments:

Say out loud: “Jesus, I bring You my emptiness. I receive Your rule and care over me right now.”

Study questions:

- Where am I still trying to prove I’m okay?
- What would it look like to receive instead of perform?

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2) Isaiah 66:2

Scripture focus: God looks to the humble, contrite, and those who tremble at His word.

One-sentence summary:

God pays close attention to the humble and repentant person who takes His word seriously.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- God is not impressed by appearances; He responds to surrender.
- “Tremble at His word” means letting Scripture have authority when feelings are loud.
- In dark seasons, you may feel unseen, but this verse says God is watching the contrite heart.

Practice step for dark moments:

Open the Bible and pray: “Lord, I don’t trust my emotions to lead; I choose Your word to lead.”

Study questions:

- What part of God’s word am I resisting because it is hard?
- What would humble obedience look like today, in one small step?

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3) Psalm 51:17

Scripture focus: “A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

One-sentence summary:

God does not reject the brokenhearted who come honestly and repentantly; He welcomes them.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- God is not disgusted by your mess; He invites you to bring it.

- A “broken heart” can become a doorway to real healing because it stops pretending.
- Repentance is not self-hatred; it is returning to God for cleansing and restoration.

Practice step for dark moments:

Pray a short confession: “God, here is the truth about me today... (name it). Have mercy and remake me.”

Study questions:

- Do I hide my sin, pain, or doubt from God? Why?
- What confession would bring me into the light?

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4) Isaiah 57:15

Scripture focus: The high and holy God dwells with the contrite to revive them.

One-sentence summary:

The God who is infinitely above all things draws near to the crushed in spirit to revive them.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- This verse holds two truths at once: God is holy, and God is near.
- “Revive” implies restoration of life, strength, and hope, not just survival.
- When you feel spiritually numb, God is not far; He specializes in bringing life to the lowly.

Practice step for dark moments:

Breathe slowly and pray: “High and Holy God, dwell with me here; revive my spirit.”

Study questions:

- What does it mean for God to “dwell” with me, not just help from a distance?
- Where do I most need revival: hope, purity, courage, joy, endurance?

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5) Luke 18:13–14

Scripture focus: The tax collector prays, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner,” and goes home justified.

One-sentence summary:

God declares right with Him the person who stops self-justifying and simply asks for mercy.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- Darkness often tempts us toward shame or pretending; mercy breaks both traps.
- The tax collector does not bargain; he depends.

- Justification means God's acceptance rests on His grace, not our emotional stability or track record.

Practice step for dark moments:

Use this as a one-line prayer all day: "God, be merciful to me."

Study questions:

- When I feel guilty, do I run from God or to God?
- What am I using to prove I'm okay instead of receiving mercy?

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6) Psalm 34:18

Scripture focus: God is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

One-sentence summary:

God comes close to emotional devastation and actively rescues those who feel crushed.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- "Near" is relational language; God's comfort is personal.
- "Saves" means God works toward deliverance, sometimes immediately, sometimes through a process.
- If you can only pray through tears, this verse says God is not offended; He is close.

Practice step for dark moments:

Pray: "God, come near to me right now; save me in the way I need most."

Study questions:

- What does "saved" need to mean for me today: strength to endure, protection, clarity, comfort, repentance?
- Who can I invite into my pain as safe support while I seek God?

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7) Psalm 146:7-9

Scripture focus: God executes justice for the oppressed, gives food, frees prisoners, lifts the bowed down, loves the righteous, watches over the vulnerable.

One-sentence summary:

God's character includes practical, protective care for the vulnerable and those weighed down.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- Depending on God includes trusting His heart for justice and help, not only His power.

- God's help can come through provision, people, and timely intervention.
- When life is heavy, this passage reminds us: God sees real-world burdens too.

Practice step for dark moments:

List two needs: one spiritual, one practical. Pray for both specifically, then take one concrete step (ask for help, seek counsel, rest, reach out).

Study questions:

- What burden is bowing me down right now?
- What kind of help do I need that I have been afraid to ask for?

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8) James 4:6

Scripture focus: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

One-sentence summary:

Humility positions us to receive God's grace, while pride blocks us from it.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- Pride is not just arrogance; it can be self-reliance, stubbornness, or refusing help.
- Grace is God's empowering presence, not only forgiveness, but strength to obey and endure.
- In darkness, humility may look like admitting you are not okay and asking God (and others) for support.

Practice step for dark moments:

Pray: "God, I lay down my self-reliance. Give me grace for the next faithful step."

Study questions:

- Where am I resisting help because I want to appear strong?
- What does humble dependence look like in my schedule, habits, and relationships?

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9) 1 Peter 5:5-7

Scripture focus: Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand; He will exalt you in due time; cast your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.

One-sentence summary:

God invites anxious people to hand Him their burdens because He truly cares, and He will lift them at the right time.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- “In due time” teaches patience in pain; God’s timing is not neglect.
- Casting anxiety is an action; you repeatedly hand it over, not once.
- God’s care is the reason you can release control.

Practice step for dark moments (simple method):

Name it: “Lord, I feel anxious about ____.”

Hand it over: “I give this to You.”

Receive care: “You care for me; hold me steady.”

Study questions:

- What anxiety do I keep rehearsing instead of releasing?
- What would it mean to trust God’s “due time” without giving up?

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10) Luke 4:18

Scripture focus: Jesus proclaims good news to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight, freedom for the oppressed.

One-sentence summary:

Jesus announces that His mission is to bring real deliverance, hope, and freedom to people in need.

Teachable breakdown (Depend on God lesson):

- Depending on God is ultimately depending on Jesus, not vague optimism.
- This passage shows God cares about both spiritual bondage and crushing life conditions.
- In darkness, we anchor to Jesus’ mission; He moves toward the needy with good news.

Practice step for dark moments:

Pray: “Jesus, apply Your good news to me; bring freedom where I feel trapped, and sight where I feel confused.”

Study questions:

- Where do I feel captive: fear, shame, addiction, bitterness, despair, trauma?
- What would “good news” sound like from Jesus into that specific place?

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Closing (Read aloud)

If you are in a dark moment, God does not demand a performance. He invites dependence. The poor in spirit are not turned away; they are welcomed. The brokenhearted are not despised; they are drawn near. The anxious are not scolded; they are invited to cast their burdens on the Lord. And Jesus Himself announces good news to those who know they need Him.

Closing prayer (optional):

Father, make us poor in spirit in the best sense, honest, humble, and open to Your help. Draw near to the brokenhearted, revive the crushed, and teach us to cast our anxieties on You. We depend on You now. In Jesus' name, amen.

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SPEAKER NOTES (Quick-reference, not read word-for-word)

Overall aim

- Emphasize: dependence is honored by God.
- Keep tone: compassionate, steady, hopeful.

Timing guide (adjust as needed)

- Opening: 2 to 3 minutes
- Each scripture section: 2 to 3 minutes
- Closing + prayer: 2 minutes
- Total: 20 to 30 minutes

Delivery tips

- Pause after each "One-sentence summary."
- Invite a short response after each practice step (silence is okay).
- If emotion rises, slow down and soften volume.

Optional congregation prompts

- "If you are tired, you are not disqualified."
- "If you are hurting, you are not alone."
- "If you are empty, you are in the right place to receive."

Safety note (pastoral)

- Encourage people to seek help when overwhelmed (pastor, counselor, trusted family/friends).
- Remind: asking for help is a form of humility, not weakness.

