



Personal Message from Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Our mission relationally engages all adults with God's grace. The Lord has called us especially to those who have never attended a church, and we have found many of them are hearing the Good News explained for the first time. However, He's also called us to those who have left the familiar traditional church or lost their way in their faith. Oftentimes these adults have missed the gospel message or have not been adequately prepared for the demanding issues of life. We have found that many believing adults have lost sight of where true blessing is found.

One Woman's Faith

Two years ago, one woman in mid-life and disillusioned with her church described her faith journey in this way: "Eventually I took on the role of an overwhelmed mom in a chaotic household where the teenagers outnumbered the adults. My husband and I were not equipped spiritually or emotionally for some of the struggles our kids experienced. At the exact point where we

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Grace Changes Everything – August 2017

had exhausted all of our own emotional resources and had nowhere else to turn, there came a phone call from Eric inviting us to a faith-based discussion group that included friends we loved and admired. It felt like a life preserver had been thrown into our sea of troubles."

Eight Marks of the Blessed Life

Jesus taught where true blessing and life are to be found in what is known as the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes do not focus on what we are to do; rather they describe the blessings that belong to those who have been given new life in Christ. He gives us eight marks of the blessed life. These are inherent in those who belong to the family of God and develop as the believer lives a faith-based life.

The first mark is found in this beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." To be "poor in spirit" means to understand that you have begun to see yourself as the Apostle Paul describes in Romans 3: "...as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even

one...they use their tongues to deceive.... Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.... Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.... There is no fear of God before their eyes.'" The poor in spirit are those whom God leads to see their true condition. Silenced by God's indictment against them, they recognize that they do not have the resources within themselves to either save themselves or to live the life God honors.

Jesus, the Son of God, showed us how to be poor in spirit. He was the only One who did have the resources He needed for life within Himself. Yet for our sakes, He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died. On the cross Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus experienced the forsakenness we deserved so that we could live with Him forever! The poor in spirit know they are:

- spiritually bankrupt,
- trust in the Lord as their only Savior,
- and now rejoice in the grace of God revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

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Ministry Update

Adult Life is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry relying on private support – and your generosity. Your gifts are investments in the biblical counseling, discipleship, and evangelism of people who may have little hope, and need more faith. Please consider joining us now with a monthly investment. Adult Life is now doing business as Vantage Point Ministries – Enjoying Life from the Vantage Point of God's Grace. Use the enclosed envelope and make checks payable to "Vantage Point" or "Adult Life." Thank you!

Prayer for local mission with adults...

Eric and Jenny Johnson
Extending God's grace to all adults and helping them explore and mature in faith. Men and Women meeting in small groups will grow in grace. Our ministry to the prisoners at Northampton County Prison. Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults.
New groups to begin.

Contact

Facebook – AdultLifeInc and
www.adultlifeinc.org
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You're Invited!
Vantage Point's Celebration Event!
Monday, September 18, 2017 6:30-8:00

Brad & Carolyn Dunham's
5218 West Hopewell
Center Valley PA 18034

RSVP by September 11
ericjohnsonlv@hotmail.com
484-554-9129

Please join our Board of Directors, investors, and friends to hear about this exciting ministry. Karen Hunter Catering will provide hors d'oeuvres, and beverages, music by Serene Green, and a short presentation of our ministry. You may bring a guest.

The Adult Life Ministry