

Title: Awake III - unmasking my soul
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Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) ³ *"Blessed are **the poor in spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Beatitudes: *Defining our internal atmosphere or spiritual attitudes.* When this is internalized, then God takes care of the externals.

Blessed are those who do not trust in self, but in God.. blessed are the humble....**Humility is the door to all the resources of heaven. All of heaven available to the poor in spirit.** Pride closes the door. Humility opens the door.

****Focus today: What keeps us from being poor in spirit?**

The *hypocrite* conceals his true motives under a cloak of make-believe.¹

Isaiah 29:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people **draw near with their mouths** And honor Me with their lips, **But have removed their hearts far from Me**...*

- **God cannot help the hypocrite, but He is drawn to the humble.** The hypocrite has placed himself out of God's reach, his heart far removed from God.

Putting up a mask

****Lance Armstrong.** He went from legend to leper in almost a day.

His confession to Oprah: *"In part one of a two part interview with [Oprah Winfrey](#), aired on January 17, 2013, Armstrong admitted to using performance enhancing drugs throughout much of his career, including all seven Tour de France wins.^[153] In the interview, Armstrong stated that his "**mythic, perfect story**" was "**one big lie**", and attributed his denials to being "a guy **who expected to get whatever he wanted, and to control every outcome**".^{[154][155]} In part two of the interview, aired the following day, Armstrong said that while doping, he neither felt that it was wrong nor felt bad about what he was doing.^[157] He further elaborated on doping throughout his career: "**My ruthless desire to win at all costs served me well on the bike but the level it went to, for whatever reason, is a flaw. That desire, that attitude, that arrogance.**" *Wikipedia - Lance Armstrong"*

The problem with hypocrisy

Matthew 23:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For **you shut up the kingdom of heaven** against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*

Hypocrisy pushes people away from God. **Hypocrisy offends God, because it misrepresents Him.**

How to unmask the soul?

1. **Realise you're faking it:** (1) **Come to God's Word** and allow it to speak to you about you. ***God's Word is like a mirror, a true mirror.** (2) **Ask somebody you trust** - "Do you think I am sometimes fake?"
2. **Desire to please God, not man.** When we desire to please man, then we will put on a mask.

¹ *New Spirit-Filled Life Bible*. 2002 (J. W. Hayford, P. G. Chappell, K. C. Ulmer, J. Brown, R. Hayden, J. D. Huntzinger & G. Matsdorf, Ed.) (1299). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Bibles.

****How do we break the power of pleasing people? (1) Choose to reveal your weaknesses, because your confidence is in God. *God cannot help the hypocrite, but God is drawn to the humble.* (1b) Don't justify yourself.**

3. **Value the internal , above the external (Don't build your image around temporal things:).** Remind yourself continually, the external is secondary, the internal is primary.

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Major issue: *Where is God's glory? When we choose to show our weaknesses, then we open the door for God to be glorified when He does great things through us.

****God cannot help a hypocrite, but He is drawn to the humble.**