

Times of Greater Grace Series: 6

Acts 4.33

Grace Aboundeth More

*“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.”*

2 Corinthians 9.7-10

- Purposeful & bountiful giving is honouring God with your substance, what you have – it is an act of worship, which is humbling yourself under God.
- God is able to make all grace [all favour, all kindness, all goodness, all blessing] abound toward you.
- That you might abound - to cause to overflow, exceed, excel, be pre-eminent – to cause to rise above and beyond.
- This type of giving causes the grace of God to go to work on your behalf increasing and blessing you – raising you up to a new level

vs8 “and God is able to make all grace abound towards you..”

This word *abound* in the Greek means:

- 'to superabound, be in excess, to be superfluous, to have enough and to spare' (James Strong).
- 'to excel, exceed, overflow, greater measure' (Joseph H Thayer)
- 'above the ordinary' (William E. Vine)
- 'have more than enough' (Dr Spiros Zodhiates)

God causes His grace [His favour, kindness, goodness, and blessing] to come to us in a greater measure, to have enough and to spare and cause us to overflow.

Listen to some of the other translations:

“And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance” (Amplified)

“God can give you more than you ever need” (J B Phillips)

“And God will generously provide all you need” (New Living Translation)

“And God can give you more blessings than you need” (New Century Version)

“God can give you all you need. He will give you more than enough.” (New Life Version)

“And God is able to bless you abundantly” (Today's New International Version)

“It is in God's power to provide you richly with every good gift” (New English Bible)

“And God is able to give you all grace in full measure” (Bible in Basic English)

“And God is able to bestow every blessing on you in abundance” (Weymouth)

“Besides, God will give you his constantly overflowing kindness” (God's Word)

“Besides, God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you” (International Standard Version)

“And God is able to give you an overflowing measure of all good gifts” (Conybeare, Epistles of Paul)

“Moreover, God is powerful to make every grace superabound to you” (Wuest)

“God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways” (The Message)

“God has power to shower all kinds of blessings upon you” (Twentieth Century New Testament)

Abundant Grace

It is this theme of abundant grace, this overflowing measure of grace, that we will study in this lesson

As we have just read in the various translations:

Our giving to God, of our money, time, talents, worship enables God to make (or cause) His grace to abound towards us – that is God pours out His favour and blessings on us in an overflowing measure

- Yes He wants to bless us
- Yes He wants to meet our needs
- Yes He wants to give us more than we need
- But He gives us more than we need for a purpose – to be a blessing to others.

What is overflow? Picture an empty cup, now see it being filled with liquid (tea/coffee/water), now see what happens when the cup gets filled but the liquid is still pouring into it – it overflows, everything around the cup gets to 'taste' the overflowing liquid.

Look again at verse 9

“And God is able to make all grace abound towards you..” - God pours out His grace (favour and blessings) in abundance (overflowing manner)

“...that you, always having all sufficiency in all things...” - so that you may have all that you need.

“...may have an abundance for every good work” - and more than you need so that you can be a blessing

It says the same things in verses 11 & 12

God blesses and favours us so that we can be a blessing, be liberal and generous, meeting the needs of the saints – that's the abundant nature of grace. God gives it to us so that we can overflow.

We see this same overflow of grace in Romans 5, but from a different angle -

Romans 5.12-21

“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (v20)

“But then Law came in, [only] to expand and increase the trespass [making it more apparent and exciting opposition]. But where sin increased and abounded, grace (God's unmerited favor) has surpassed it and increased the more and superabounded” (Amplified)

Where sin increases and overflows we have an even greater measure of grace to cause us to triumph over sin.

In this chapter we read of two men – one brought us into sin, the other brought us into grace.

- (vs12-14) Through Adam sin entered the world and death with it.
 - Sin and death spread to all men (it abounded to all).
 - Sin reigned until the time of Moses when the law was given, but until the law sin was not imputed to men (men were not charged with sin because there was no law for them to break). Without the law there was no conviction of sin and therefore no need for redemption, or a Saviour.
 - The law added because of sin (see Galatians 3.19 (Amp)) until Jesus, the Saviour and Redeemer, would come – He would bring in the time of grace.
- (vs15) Through Jesus the free gift (*charisma* - the gift of grace) abounded to many resulting in life and victory over sin and death.
 - John in his gospel tells us 'grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' (John 1.17).
 - In Christ Jesus we are no longer under the law (and it's condemnation) but under grace (Romans 6.14).

Mighty as sin is, the grace of God is mightier still. If we look at sin by itself it would appear that it is unconquerable, with no one able to escape it's grip and power. But when the grace of God comes alongside we see how easily the power of sin is overcome and done away with

- **Sin brought condemnation but grace brings pardon** (vs16-18)
 - The soul that sins shall die (Ezekiel 18. 4,20; Romans 6.23).
 - The one that broke the Law was condemned, judged guilty
 - There is now no condemnation in Christ Jesus - (Romans 8.1)
 - Moses prayed that 'grace' would pardon his iniquity - (Exodus 34.9)
 - Grace and mercy triumph over the guilt of sin (vs18)
- **Sin brought sinfulness but grace brings righteousness** (vs19)
 - The sin that the one (Adam) sinned resulted in a lifestyle of sin. This sinful nature perpetuated to every human being.
 - All are born into sin and are sinful by nature (Romans 3.23)
 - Grace makes the Divine Exchange – (2 Corinthians 5.21). The One (Jesus) became sin so that we could become the righteousness of God.
- **Sin brought death but grace brings life** (vs21)
 - Sin produces death – (James 1.15)
 - The wages of sin is death, but God's free gift is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6.23)
 - Jesus (the personification of grace) came to give us abundant, abounding life (John 10.10)