

## Releasing God's Grace For Abundance

Money plays a vital role in all of our lives. Riches have been given to us by Christ (2 Cor 8:9). As Christians our goal is not the pursuit of riches but the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Do you believe you can expand the Kingdom financially?

Money, or things that can be used for money, are mentioned in the Bible more than any other topic. In fact, it is mentioned more than the topics of faith, love, heaven, and hell all combined. Should a Christian have money? What role does it play in his life? Does God want to prosper him with abundance or is he to take a vow of poverty?

In Matthew 25:21,23 the servants who increased their talents were commended by the Lord. An individual's gifting is one of the ways that God graces us to receive riches. All of us have the opportunity for God's grace to be released in our lives so that we can have an abundance to give to every good work.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-4** Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: (2) that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. (3) For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, (4) imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

There was a *grace* bestowed on the Macedonians. Even though they were facing deep poverty, they desired to give. God's favor empowered them to do what was in their hearts. God's grace can empower you as well.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

One would think that in order to abound you need money. God didn't say He would make finances come our way; He said He would give us His *grace*. What you need, in order to abound, is God's grace. It's His favor that empowers us to be able to abound. So how do we release God's grace for abundance?

### So how do we release God's grace for abundance?

#### Act on God's grace by faith

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

**Romans 5:2** through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

You release God's grace for abundance by faith. You have to respond to your revelation of God's Word. Immediately I started giving more. I saw that God's Word says I can abound to every good work. When I

abound in generosity, God's grace empowers me. I then have more come to me so I can continue to bless God's Kingdom. God's abundance has been there all along. It did not start flowing to me in abundance until I started purposing to give boldly, acting confident in God's word to me in 2 Corinthians 9:8.

In 1 Kings 17:9 God told Elijah, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." Elijah obeyed. The two met at the city gate, and he asked her to bring him some water and bread. She told Elijah she did not have any bread made. All she had was enough flour and oil to make a small patty for her son and herself then they would just wait and die. Elijah then gave her a word from God.

**1 Kings 17:13-14** And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. **(14)** For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' "

Her response released the grace of God and empowered her to provide for Elijah and her family during the rest of the drought. In verse 9 God said He had already commanded the provision. It was not until verse 14 that she found out about it. When she acted on God's Word for her by faith, grace was released.

God has already made provision available to us so we can build His kingdom. It is not until we exercise faith in His grace that we see His abundance released.

## You are Blessed because God loves you

Here are a few reasons why people give.

- They believe they have more than they need
- They believe it's easy to get more.
- Some give out of compassion or love.
- And others give as an act of faith in God's Word.

One thing we do know is God does not want you to give because you feel obligated or forced.

**2 Corinthians 9:7** So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving is an act of love and it comes from the heart. God loved us so much He gave His son to take our punishment for sin so we could have life in, through, and with Him (John 3:16). Romans 5:8 says God demonstrated His love toward us while we were still sinners by sending Christ to die for us.

Love is the desire to benefit others at the expense of self. Love desires to give. Lust is the desire to benefit self at the expense of others because lust is a taker.

**Deuteronomy 7:13** And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; ...

The reason we are blessed is because God loves us. Our acts of giving are a response to His love for us. When you believe that God wants to prosper you and is seeking ways to bless you, it's far easier to give as He directs your heart. If you feel condemned in your heart for failing God in some way, it's difficult to believe that He is seeking opportunities to pour out His favor upon you.

God sent Jesus to become our sins, our regrets, and our pains so we could live free from condemnation (2 Cor 5:21; Rom 8:1). Knowing that all of our sins (past, present, and future) are covered by the blood of Christ gives us confidence in God's love and generosity toward us (Col 2:13-14). We can come boldly to God and obtain grace, which is His favor and empowerment (Heb. 4:16).

## Revelation produces faith in God's grace

**2 Corinthians 8:7** But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—*see* that you abound in this grace also.

Paul exhorted the Macedonians to, "Abound in this grace also." The NIV says, "Excel in this grace of giving." The grace of God is available to all. We can purpose to excel in different graces. In order to have confidence in God's grace, His Word has to become alive in you. Here are some examples of how I received revelation.

I was riding home with Bob Kulp, and as we talked I suddenly realized that the light of God was in me. And if the light of God is in me, then the darkness of Satan is not. It was a sudden revelation that I am the righteousness of God (1 John 1:5-9), and that Rhema has become a strength in my life.

At prayer meeting one night God showed me that I was not the sick trying to get well, but I am the healthy and the devil is trying to steal it from me. I know Kenneth Copeland said that long before I thought of it, but on that night it became mine. I knew in my heart that I am the healthy.

In 2005 I was all alone, praying in the sanctuary of Believers' Fellowship. I envisioned Jesus kneeling on one knee to pray for me as I was lying on the floor. He started by saying, "Father, I pray that he would know how much we love him." Since that day my revelation of God's love for me has grown. It has become a vital part of what I believe and share.

On another occasion I sat listening to Dr. Larry Hutton. He preached about the grace for finances. I was intrigued, so I went home and read 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 several times. As I meditated on the passages I realized that I was exercising the revelations I had in righteousness, healing, and love, but I was not excelling in the grace of giving. I knew that provision comes by grace (2 Cor 8:9 and 9:8), but I was not exercising my faith to excel in this area.

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