

A Devotional Prayer Guide on the Subject of Financial Stewardship

Prayer Time #10 Abundant Opportunity

Focal Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

When I was a boy, our source of water was a well located in our front yard. Some wells in our area were fed by underground springs, but this particular one was not. A man named Leo Fry had a metal tank on a truck. He filled the tank at some nearby location and hauled the water to us and let it gravity flow into our well. We used the water, and Leo came like clockwork and filled it again. If we didn't use the water, the water in the well would grow stagnate. Drinking water out of well might not have been the most sanitary source considering what we have now, but it was good. But letting the water stand in that well for long periods of time would have been an altogether less pleasant experience. Algae, bacteria, and other assorted organisms would have polluted the water making it unhealthy not to mention unappealing. Water had to flow in and flow out to at its best.

The Christian is blessed with the abundance of God. In his appeal to the Corinthians to be generous in grave giving, Paul made this wonderful statement:

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good work.” (v.8).

What a Word from the Lord this is! God is able; Is He ever! God makes His grace abound. Yes, yes, yes, He is able to *“do more than we ask or think.”* (Eph. 3:20) An endless supply of grace is provided by the Lord to His people. His unmerited favor just keeps coming. He saves the sinner and continues to show His amazing grace. He Himself is the source of this sufficiency. The believer needs only the Lord, and the Lord's sufficiency is a never-ending supply of love. Why does the Lord pour the His grace and His sufficiency into the life of a child of God? So they may have an abundance for every good deed.

The pioneer missionary Hudson Taylor said, “God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply.” The Lord is redeeming for Himself a people from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Rev. 4-5). He has chosen to carry out His Redemptive plan through His church, the people He redeemed at a high cost. The Lord Jesus purchased His people with His own precious blood (Acts 20:28).

The Lord's people are stewards of God's Great Commission. We are to declare His saving grace to the nations. He supplies all that's needed to carry that mission out. We are stewards of this opportunity to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The supply God provides His people to do this good deed is abundant. It is the never-ending sufficiency of His own greatness. It is the power and presence of the Lord.

Grace giving results in God's provision of the abundance His people need to be obedient to this Great Commission. The true abundance God gives to grace givers should be considered a supply to be used for His glory. We don't sit on it. If God's people are not generous in their use of all God supplies, the abundance of that supply will grow stagnate. It's not because God cannot use it, it's because God will not use it.

Christians are to be channels of blessing, not reservoirs of resources. The Corinthians would enjoy and abundance for every good work when they were grace givers. What an amazing way to wrap up our series of devotional studies? All the blessings that come to God's people when they give generously though their local church are bound together in this final fundamental reality. God provides an abundance of blessing to those who joyfully, generously, sacrificially, and obediently pour out what God has poured in.

I make this statement based on the authority of the Word of God, and as a witness of this truth: when God's people have a heart to give generously to the Lord, He works through them in amazing ways. God is not a cosmic cash dispenser. He will not respond to selfish appeals. He will not bless stinginess or greed. James 4:2-3 says,

You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

God knows our hearts. When our heartbeat is to be pleasing to Him and to give joyfully with a desire to see Him glorified, you can expect an abundance. This abundance is not necessarily in material things, but it is in the abundance of God's supply. God abundantly blesses those who want to be a blessing to others. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than receive." What a joy it is!

As you read this final devotional piece, please search your heart. Are you a grace giver? Are you a conduit of blessing that enjoys the abundance of God flowing through you? When God told the Children of Israel to bring items for the building of the Tabernacle, they brought so much Moses told them there was an overabundance, they didn't need to keep giving. The Lord empowered skilled craftsmen, and those supplies were used to build that magnificent structure and all the items within it. That was one of the few happy times in the life of the people who were part of the Exodus from Egypt. They were riddled with sin and unbelief more often than not. They were sent to the Promised Land to fulfill the covenant of the Lord to be a blessing to the nations. God had an abundance waiting for them in Canaan, but they balked. The abundance they could have experienced was just out of their grasp as they wandered in the desolate land just outside the southern border.

God's grace is abundant, and His supply for every good work endless. When our hearts are set on obedience an our desire is to see Him glorified, we are in center of His will. That's our Promised Land. Milk and honey are ours in Christ. Abundance for every good work will never cease to be bestowed on the one who has joy in giving.

Thank you for reading, and praying, and praise God if this leads you to a greater commitment to be a grace giver in your local church.

Suggestions for your prayer time:

- Praise the Lord for His abundant grace
- Thank the Lord for the abundance He has given you
- Commit yourself anew to be a steward of the Lord's financial blessings
- Ask the Lord to provide opportunities for you to use your finances for His glory
- Confess any way you might have neglected to be faithful in grace giving
- Pray the Lord give you a heart to be generous in your giving to the local church