

## Financial Freedom in Christ

### Week 2

#### God's Abundant Provision of Grace

##### Romans 5:17

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of Righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! NIV

Everything we receive from God comes by grace through faith (relying upon Jesus):

##### Ephesians 2:8-9

**8** For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [*of your own doing, it came not through your own striving*], but it is the gift of God;

**9** Not because of works [*not the fulfillment of the Law's demands*], lest any man should boast. [*It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.*] AMPC

##### What is grace?

Grace comes from the Greek word G5485 charis: especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life

##### 2 Corinthians 1:12

The grace of God (the unmerited favor and merciful kindness by which God, exerting His Holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, and keeps, strengthens, and increase them in Christian virtues). AMPC

Since grace (God's power and ability) cannot be earned, when you add your ability or good works to it, grace is no longer grace (Romans 11:6).

Grace is the unmerited favor (ability and power) of the Holy Spirit upon our hearts and upon our lives. It is a free gift that we receive by relying upon Jesus. The Spirit of grace is the power of God that manifests His promised blessings in our lives.

**The same word that describes God's abundant provision of Grace is the same word that describes the Life Jesus came to give us in John 10:10**

**John 10:10** The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). AMPC

**Abundance** in Romans 5:17 & John 10:10 comes from the Greek word: G4053 perissos *per-is-sos'* it means: *superabundant* (in quantity) or *superior* (in quality); by implication *excessive*; - exceeding abundantly above; a quantity that is much larger than is needed; superabundance

This same word Perissos is also found in Ephesians 3:20. This verse shows us what the abundant life looks like. It also shows us how we partake of this abundant life

**Ephesians 3:20: Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]--AMPC**

According to the power of grace that is at work in you, God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above your highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes and dreams

Grace produces the fruit of joyful generosity in our hearts and also manifests the superabundant Provision of God in our lives. God does this in and for us by receiving His grace- trusting and relying upon Jesus.

### **The fruit of God's superabundant Provision of Grace in our lives**

- 1. God's superabundant provision of grace creates in our hearts a joyful desire to give out of compassion and love**

#### **2 Corinthians 8:1-3,9**

**1** We want to tell you further, brethren, about the grace (the favor and spiritual blessing) of God which has been evident in the churches of Macedonia [*arousing in them the desire to give alms*];

**2** For in the midst of an ordeal of severe tribulation, their abundance of joy and their depth of poverty [*together*] have overflowed in wealth of lavish generosity on their part.

**3** For, as I can bear witness, [*they gave*] according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability; and [*they did it*] voluntarily, AMP

**9** For you are becoming progressively acquainted with and recognizing more strongly and clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (His kindness, His gracious generosity, His undeserved favor and spiritual blessing), [*in*] that though He was [*so very*] rich, yet for your sakes He became [*so very*] poor, in order that by His poverty you might become enriched (abundantly supplied).

- Jesus took the curse of poverty so that you and I could enjoy the blessing of abundance**

2. God's superabundant Provision of Grace abounds toward you so that you have more than enough to give to every good work

**2 Corinthians 9:7-15**

7 Let each one [*give*] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [*whose heart is in his giving*].

8 And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in **abundance**, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [*possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation*].

9 As it is written, He [*the benevolent person*] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever!

10 And [*God*] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [*resources for*] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [*which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity*].

11 Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and [*your generosity as it is*] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God.

12 For the service that the ministering of this fund renders does not only fully supply what is lacking to the saints (God's people), but it also overflows in many [*cries of*] thanksgiving to God.

13 Because at [*your*] standing of the test of this ministry, they will glorify God for your loyalty and obedience to the Gospel of Christ which you confess, as well as for your generous-hearted liberality to them and to all [*the other needy ones*].

14 And they yearn for you while they pray for you, because of the surpassing measure of God's grace (His favor and mercy and spiritual blessing which is shown forth) in you.

15 Now thanks be to God for His Gift, [*precious*] beyond telling [*His indescribable, inexpressible, free Gift*]!

The word "abundance" in II Corinthians 9:8 comes from the same Greek word that is found in John 10:10 at it also means:

G4052 περισσεύω perisseuō *per-is-syoo'-o* From G4053; to *superabound* (in quantity or quality), *be in excess, be superfluous*; also (transitively) to *cause to superabound* or *excel*: - abundance

Verses 9-11: We are blessed to be a blessing because of Jesus: Our Father gives us seed to sow and increases the fruit of our righteousness. The fruit of righteousness is generosity

Verses 12-15: God's grace at work in your life brings glory to God. People see the goodness and love of the Father in you and give Him thanks for your generosity

## The Law of Giving vs The Grace of Giving

The law demands, but grace abundantly supplies

Under the law, you give to earn God's approval and blessing, under grace, you give because you are approved and blessed in Jesus

The law produces a lack mentality; grace produces an abundance mentality

Under the law, you earn God's blessing; under grace, you receive it by trusting in Jesus

Under the law, you're disqualified for God's abundant blessing; but under grace, Jesus qualified you and His abundant blessing abounds toward you as a free gift.

The law produces fear; Grace produces peace

Under the law, you trust in your good works, under grace you trust in Jesus' finished work!

The law produces pride, but grace is received by the humble

### God Gives His Superabundant Provision of Grace to those who are Humble enough to receive it (James 4:5,6)

#### Luke 18:9-14

**9** He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves and were confident that they were righteous [*that they were upright and in right standing with God*] and scorned and made nothing of all the rest of men:

**10** Two men went up into the temple [*enclosure*] to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other tax collector.

**11** The Pharisee took his stand ostentatiously and began to pray thus before and with himself: God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men--extortioners (robbers), swindlers [*unrighteous in heart and life*], adulterers--or even like this tax collector here.

**12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I gain.

**13** But the tax collector, [*merely*] standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, O God, be favorable (be gracious, be merciful) to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am!

**14** I tell you, this man went down to his home justified (forgiven and made upright and in right standing with God), rather than the other man; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted. AMPC

**Those who receive God's abundant provision of grace & His free gift of Righteousness will reign in life and experience God's abundant blessing because of Jesus!**

**Romans 5:17**