

Abundant Blessings

Lesson 6

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:8-11; Ephesians 3:20; Colossians 2:1-3;

2 Timothy 2:21; 2 Peter 1:2-4

December 31, 2023

Are We Abounding or Grounding?

INTRODUCTION

Through Jesus, God has blessed us with an intimate relationship with Himself, very much like a parent and child. He has called us His children and heirs to His kingdom. As such, we carry a responsibility in how we respond to that relationship, whether by ignoring it or pursuing it actively.

God did not intend for us to merely “exist” as Christians, but to continue to mature and grow. Our relationship with our Heavenly Father, when healthy and active, will naturally birth something more: abundance in spiritual fruit. This abundance becomes evident in everything we do, everything we say, and every choice we make.

God gives us grace, peace, strength, love, and mercy in this great abundance so that we, too, may abound in good work. And this is more than just giving money. But by also giving our time, attention, care, and love, God channels His character through us to change the world.

Memory verse: “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”—2 Corinthians 9:8

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. In what does Paul say the Corinthians excel?
(2 Corinthians 8:7)
2. What has God's divine power given us? (2 Peter 1:3)
3. What does Peter say we have escaped? (2 Peter 1:4)
4. What is Paul's goal in working for the Colossians and Laodiceans? (Colossians 2:1-3)
5. Of what will the "cleansed" be instruments?
(2 Timothy 2:21)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. What things are promised to be given to us by God?
(2 Corinthians 9:8, 11; 2 Timothy 2:21; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

2. Why would Paul use "contending" when referring to his efforts for the Colossians and Laodiceans?
(Psalms 35:23, 127:5; Colossians 2:1; Jude 1:3)

3. When we ask God to bless us according to His will, to what degree will He meet that request? (Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 1:9)

4. Throughout all the passages in this lesson, many superlative words are used: any, all, every, very great, etc. What are we to understand about the extremity of God's giving? (2 Chronicles 1:12; Malachi 3:10-12; 2 Corinthians 9:8-11; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. What are we to conclude through these passages regarding the abundance of God's promises concerning our continuing growth in our relationship with Him?
2. How could we respond to God's promise to bless us abundantly for doing good work when we ask in accordance with His will?
3. Think of ways you could demonstrate the abundance of God's grace and love to those around you through your time and effort. Start a list of ideas for showing love and kindness, whether in specific, large ways or various, small ways.