

Personal Benefits of Grace Giving
2 Corinthians 9:8
Part One

So let me ask you this question. Do you believe that “all sufficiency,” or in other words that everything that we could possibly need, flows from God and the outpouring of His grace, or do you believe that “all sufficiency,” or in other words that everything that we could possibly need, can only flow from money?

I would hope that you would say that you believe that “all sufficiency,” or in other words that everything that we could possibly need, rather than flowing from money can only come from God and His grace. And that is what I would hope that you would say.

If we think that is what we would say because that is what we believe then let us use our money to give generously and cheerfully to others in response to God’s grace, as an expression of God’s grace, and with the hope of reaping even further grace knowing that if we give in this way that God has promised us that we will lose nothing while He supplies us with everything, both materially and spiritually, that we could possibly need and so much so that we will be able to continue to give generously and cheerfully to others without any fear, without any trepidation, as well as without any sense of loss.

And this thought brings us back to our study of **2 Corinthians** and more specifically to the passage that we will be examining this morning: **2 Corinthians 9:8-10**.

But before we begin to examine the passage that we will be considering this morning, let us for a moment consider the two previous verses that we examined last week.

Paul had just made it clear in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** that there are two kinds of givers: The giver that God loves and the giver that God does not love. So let us go back to these two verses once again and see if this is not so. **“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.”

So clearly within these verses Paul identifies two different kinds of givers: The giver that God loves and the giver that God does not love. And what characterizes these respective givers? The giver that God loves, the one who is sowing bountifully, is characterized by generous and cheerful giving, while the giver that God does not love, the one who is sowing sparingly, is characterized by restrained and grudging giving.

So, what is the basic heart difference between these two kinds of givers based on the broader context of **2 Corinthians 8-9** and the Greek word “EULOGIA” translated “bountiful” and “bountifully” in **2 Corinthians 9:5-6**?

The difference is that the givers who are sowing bountifully and who are characterized by generous and cheerful giving are giving in response to grace, as an expression of grace, and are sowing grace with the hope of reaping even further grace, or in other words they are “grace givers.” While those who are giving sparingly and who are characterized by restrained and grudging giving are “flesh givers,” or in other words their giving is being shaped by their fleshly impulses, appetites and beliefs rather than by the grace of God.

But now we are ready to move on in our study of this wonderful epistle and more specifically to **2 Corinthians 9:8-10**. **“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; (9) as it is written, ‘He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever.’ (10) Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”**

And what will be our focus as we begin to examine these verses? Our focus as we begin to examine these verses will be on the specific personal benefits of “grace giving,” or in other words on the specific personal benefits that will accrue to those who are giving generously and cheerfully as an outflow of grace. This will be our focus this morning as we examine these verses.

And this leads us to the question that we will be seeking to answer. And the question is this: What are the specific personal benefits of grace giving based on the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:8-10?

And what is my hope for this morning's message as we begin to pursue an answer to this question? My hope is that we might not only begin to better understand the personal benefits of "grace giving," but that we might begin to experience those benefits as we surrender ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord and to His promises. So, what is the very first benefit of grace giving highlighted for us by Paul in **2 Corinthians 9:8-10**?

The first personal benefit of grace giving is sufficiency (2 Corinthians 9:8). Let me now read for you **2 Corinthians 9:8** and see if this is not so. **"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."**

Clearly based on what we just read, we should be able to quickly see that one of the personal benefits of grace giving is that God, in His abounding grace, will supply us with **"all sufficiency"** so that we will always have an abundance for every good deed. Now this is a very intriguing verse, but what does this verse mean?

Let us now go back and look at this verse more carefully and try to determine that. And we will begin with the phrase **"And God is able to make all grace abound to you."** This statement is personally directed at the Corinthians and flows from **verses 6-7**.

God had just promised the Corinthians through His apostle that those who sow bountifully, or in other words who sow "blessing" or "grace," would reap "blessing" or "grace." This promise is contained in the proverbial statement found in **2 Corinthians 9:6** and can only be applied in this context to "grace givers" who, in embracing this promise by faith, will find themselves giving generously and cheerfully.

So why would Paul follow up this promise that can only be applied to grace givers in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** with this statement directed specifically to the Corinthians at the beginning of **2 Corinthians 9:8** **"And God is able to make all grace abound to you?"**

He followed up this promise with this statement because he wanted the Corinthians to better understand how extensive this further harvest of grace could potentially be for those who in response to grace, as an expression of grace, sow grace in the hope of reaping further grace.

This is why he followed up this promise in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** with this personal statement directed specifically to the Corinthians at the beginning of **2 Corinthians 9:8**.

So how extensive, according to Paul, could this further harvest of God's grace be for those who choose to give generously and cheerfully in response to grace, as an expression of grace, and who in the hope of reaping further grace sow grace? This is Paul's answer. This harvest of grace, because it ultimately flows from God, could be so extensive that it potentially could encompass **"all grace."**

So, what did Paul mean by **"all grace?"** The phrase "all grace" is very broad in scope and would include every form of grace that could possibly be available from God whether material or spiritual. So obviously, this phrase when it is understood in this way should have communicated to the Corinthians the true nature of the glorious extent of the bountiful harvest of grace that could be theirs if they would simply, by an act of faith, apply what Paul had just said in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**.

And the same thing is true for us. Or in other words, this same bountiful harvest of grace could be ours as well if we would simply, by an act of faith, apply what Paul had just said.

And how would we apply it? We would apply it by choosing in response to the grace that we have received, and as an expression of the grace that we have received, and as we sow grace in the hope of reaping further grace, or perhaps better said as we sow grace in the hope of reaping further unlimited grace, that we in response to all these things would choose to give generously and cheerfully.

So now let me ask this question. If we in fact by faith choose to do this, or in other words to give to others generously and cheerfully, for the reasons that I have just shared with you, should we be fearful? And what is the answer?

The answer would have to be absolutely not! There is nothing to fear! Why? Because **“God is able to make all grace abound to us.”**

So many people fear to give to others generously and cheerfully because they are fearful that they will not have enough for themselves to meet their needs.

So let me now ask you this question. Why is this? I believe it is because they are putting far too much trust in their money than they are in God.

But this should not be true of us as professing believers, for if we generously and cheerfully give to those in need in response to grace, as an expression of grace, and we sow grace in the hope of reaping further grace Paul tells us that **“God is able to make all grace abound to us”** not just in respect to meeting our needs but also the needs of others.

So now let us continue to read this verse and see if this is not so. **“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.”**

Wow! These are big words **“always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”**

So now let me ask you this question. Based on these words should we, as we give generously and cheerfully to others in response to grace, as an expression of grace, and as we sow grace in the hope of reaping further grace, be fearful that we will not have sufficient resources supplied to us by God to meet our needs or the needs of others?

And what is the answer? The answer would have to be no! And would this be true regardless of how much money we may have or perhaps better said, how little money we may have? And the answer would have to be absolutely! Generous and cheerful giving should not be constrained by fear.

And why is this? It is because grace givers, reaping the bountiful harvest of God’s grace, will “always” and “in everything” experience the “all sufficiency” of God’s grace making it possible for them to give cheerfully and without fear in whatever circumstances they may find themselves.

Therefore it really doesn't matter if a grace giver has a lot of money or a little bit of money for when the grace giver gives, in response to God's promises, he is in effect entrusting himself to God believing that God is able to make all grace abound to him **“so that always having all sufficiency in everything [he] may have an abundance for every good work.”** This is why he is able to give generously and cheerfully.

So now let us look at this word **“sufficiency”** a little bit more carefully so that we might not become confused about what God is offering to grace givers when He speaks about them as **“always having all sufficiency in everything.”** So, what does this word mean?

The word “sufficiency” (AUTARKEIA) literally means “contentment.” And this is how we should understand it here. But what kind of contentment is Paul talking about?

In Paul's time the stoics and cynics linked contentment to a self-reliance brought about by self-discipline that led to a passive detachment from external circumstances and people. This is not the kind of contentment that we should think of when considering Paul's use of the word “sufficiency” here in this verse.

But rather we should be thinking of the kind of contentment that is produced in us when we are relying on the promises of God and are filled with His joy and experiencing such a satisfaction within our souls that we feel very rich and full in spite of how much or how little material wealth we may possess.

And I believe that King David experienced the essence of this kind of contentment in **Psalm 23** when he said, **“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; he guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”**

Was David in a state of contentment? Absolutely and it is in this state of contentment, or in other words when we are experiencing the “**all sufficiency**” of God’s unlimited grace that we will know without a doubt that not only have we been given enough but that we have been given more than enough, not only to meet our needs but also the needs of others, and which would be limited only by the sovereignty God in respect to the good works that He has ordained for us to fulfill before the foundation of the world.

So should we have any fear when it comes to grace giving? No! We should only feel excitement knowing that if we generously and cheerfully give to others in response to grace, as an expression of grace, and sow grace in the hope of reaping further grace that the harvest of grace that we will reap will be potentially unlimited and so much so that Paul was able to say at the end of **verse 8**, “**So that always having all sufficiency in everything, [we] may have an abundance for every good deed.**”

So let me again ask you this question. Do you believe that “all sufficiency,” or in other words that everything that we could possibly need, flows from God and the outpouring of His grace or do you believe that “all sufficiency,” or in other words that everything that we could possibly need, can only flow from money?

I would hope that you would say that you believe that “all sufficiency,” or in other words that everything that we could possibly need, rather than flowing from money, can only flow from God and His grace. And that is what I would hope that you would say.

If this is what we would say because that is what we believe, then let us use our money to give generously and cheerfully to others in response to God’s grace, as an expression of God’s grace, and with the hope of reaping even further grace knowing that if we give in this way that God has promised us that we will lose nothing while He supplies us with everything, both materially and spiritually that we could possibly need and so much so that we will be able to continue to give generously and cheerfully to others without any fear, without any trepidation, as well as without any sense of loss.

May God give us the grace to trust in His promises so that we, in the blessedness of the sufficiency He will provide, will be able to give generously and cheerfully to those in need without fear.