

God's Abundance Part 1

In this teaching we will begin a new series on the word abundance. The study will be broken up into the abundance of God and the abundance of what man has.

The word abundance occurs 68 times, abundant 13 and abundantly 32 times.

According to the Oxford dictionary abundance means "*Quantity more than sufficient, plenty, overflowing...*"

In this study we will begin with the abundance of God and will cover 3 points:

1. God has abundantly shed his Holy Spirit upon the believer.
2. The Lord is abundant in goodness and truth.
3. God's grace is exceedingly abundant in Christ.

Let us add a little more detail to each of the points above.

1. God has shed his Holy Spirit abundantly through Jesus Christ..

Tit 3:5-6 Not by words of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the working of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

When a person gets saved and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, his death, burial and resurrection, when they call on the name of the Lord, and God through his mercy saves them, then that person receives the Holy Ghost.

We can not earn God's Holy Spirit, for it is not by works of righteousness which we have done and it is certainly not for sale as Simon thought it to be in Acts 8: 18 *And when Simon saw that through the laying on of hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money. Saying, Give me this power...*

In the very next verse, verse 20, Peter points out that *Thy money perish with thee because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.* It is a gift received only after a person is saved! And when you receive it you receive it in abundance, you receive a quantity more than sufficient for what you need.

There is not a separate baptism of the Holy Spirit and there is no slaying in the Spirit. Such doctrines are not found in the Holy Scriptures but rather Charismatic church inventions.

I remember my last experience in a Presbyterian church in Mangere where I attended an Alpha course, which is supposed to be platform for young believers to learn about the basics of their faith and an environment to bring along their unsaved friends. They taught that a person was saved then baptized in the Holy Spirit, which is similar to the sequence in Acts 8: 12- 15. Whereas Paul's teaching is similar to the sequence in Acts 10: 43--48, where a person believes the preaching, is saved and at the same time receives the Holy Spirit and is then baptized. Hence when I went forward to be baptized in the Holy Spirit nothing happened because I had already received the Holy Spirit abundantly when I believed Christ. As His Holy Spirit is with all those who believe. And the Holy Spirit of God within us bears fruit as we mature in Christ. Just as an apple tree brings forth the fruit of apples, so will each one of us, that do not believe in vain, bring forth fruit of the Spirit, which is in all goodness and righteousness and truth - Eph.5: 9.

Let us thank God, today that whatever tasks he has for us, whatever path our journey takes we will always have the Holy Spirit of God with us. In fact we will have an abundance of God's Holy Spirit through Christ Jesus, we will have more than sufficient! Praise God!

2. The Lord is abundant in goodness and truth.

Ex 34:6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Following on from our previous point where we learnt that God has shed upon each one of us his Holy Spirit in abundance and the fruit of that Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. It won't surprise you that the Lord is abundant in goodness and truth, His goodness and truth are more than sufficient.

Let us consider each of these separately:

a) The goodness of God.

In Jer.31: 14 Jeremiah teaches that God's people shall be satisfied with his goodness. And now we learn that the Lord is abundant in goodness. Is it any wonder that David in the psalms encourages us to praise the Lord for goodness (see Ps.107: 8, 15, 21 & 31). It is God's pleasure to give his goodness to those who believe (see 2Thes.1: 11).

Now we have a consequence for believers who do not continue in the goodness of God. For those who do not continue in his goodness they will be cut off from his goodness (see Rom.11: 22). And it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance (see Rom.2: 4).

I am sure we all have examples of God's abundant goodness to us. Providing for us in ways that we never thought of, in ways that met our needs that sometimes we didn't even know we had. Such is the abundance of God's goodness to His children.

Now what about the truth of God?

b) The truth of God

Ps.31: 5 teaches that the Lord is God of truth.

Ps.40: 11 indicates that the Lord's lovingkindness and truth will preserve us.

Ps.86: 15 says that God is full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and *plenteous* in mercy and truth.

Jn15: 6 Jesus taught that he is the way, the truth and the light.

So, Christ our Saviour embodied truth and the Holy Scriptures that reveal the Lord is called the word of truth (see Eph.1:13, 1Thes.2: 13 & 2Tim.2: 15). Is it any wonder that there are men raised up by God to defend the truth of the Holy Scriptures, like Jack Chick, Peter Ruckman and Dennis Lloyd. If God is truth and he is abundant in truth, then it is logical that the Scriptures were inspired by God and preserved by God would also be truth, and in them, no error.

You have heard me, I am sure, asserting that there are men of the cloth, there are God's ministers who get paid to teach and preach the Bible but do not believe it is truthful. Don't believe me? Next time you meet a minister or a pastor ask him if he believes that the Holy Bible is the word of truth, and that God is abundant in truth then the Holy Bible cannot have any errors, otherwise it cannot be given by the Holy Spirit of God, but of man?

Go on, ask the next minister or pastor that you meet, and see what he says.

The majority of main stream Protestant churches use a bible that is not the word of truth but have at least 5 errors within their pages which demonstrate their author is man and not the God of truth. Those churches which continue to use the Holy Scriptures (the English text of the 1611 KJ Bible, otherwise known as the Authorized Bible, AB) are getting less and less each year. Some of you will remember the late Dr Dennis Spackman, he was a teaching elder at a Brethren assembly in Blockhouse Bay. When he went home to be with the Lord the church gradually changed from studying the truth of the Holy Scriptures, to using corrupt counterfeit versions of the Holy Scriptures. And yes, Dennis's brother Neil and one or two others continue to encourage the use of the AB, but there are now teaching elders who use the counterfeits and so, rather than unity with one foundation, there is confusion and division. And the devil, our adversary will continue to challenge the authority of God's words as he did to Eve in Gen.3: 1, *Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

Do you believe that God is abundant in truth? Do you believe that His truth applies to his word? If you do? Then stand up and be counted, with those who are prepared to stand for the truth of the Holy Scriptures like Dennis Lloyd's publication *The Stand*. Dennis has believed the truth ever since he was shown the errors in the corrupt versions. Good on you brother Dennis.

God is abundant in goodness and truth, let us ask God to help know these truths in our hearts and share them with other Christians that we meet.

3. God's grace is exceedingly abundant in Christ.

1Tim 1:14 *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*
See also Rom 5:17 & 2Cor 4:15.

What is grace?

Grace according to the Oxford dictionary means "unmerited favour of God..."

Now note the verse, doesn't say, abundant grace, but *exceeding abundant*. It is a double positive or a double emphasis. In a similar way that the phrase *free gift* is used in Romans (see Rom.5: 15, 16 & 18). A gift, by virtue of being a gift is free and so there is a double emphasis, that the gift IS free. Here in 1Tim.1: 14 Paul *doesn't* teach that God's unmerited favour, his grace is abundant. But that God's grace which is overflowing is actually, exceedingly overflowing or exceedingly abundant! That's a lot of grace!

But this exceeding abundant unmerited favour of God is ONLY found in Christ Jesus! Not any other name, or any other god, but only in the Lord Jesus Christ! When a person believes the gospel of Christ crucified they have access to this enormous, exceeding abundant unmerited favour of the God who created the heavens and the earth. Now that is something to be thankful for and something to share with others.

It's one thing to read about a doctrine in the Holy Scriptures, but it's another to know it daily in our lives, to live as if the doctrine were real to you personally.

A bit like the doctrine of faith. It's one thing to know what the Scriptures teach on faith, but another thing to live every day by faith,

Do you know the doctrine of God's exceeding, abundant, enormous, unmerited favour as a truth of Scripture?

If you do, do you also live each day knowing this truth?

I am sure there are believers we all know that have been through a rough patch, perhaps thinking that no one loves them. I am also sure that most non-believers struggle with feeling unworthy of being loved, especially for those who have been abandoned by their parents.

What a joy for such a person to know, and really know in their heart that God who created the heavens and the earth loves them so much that he sent his Son to die for them, and in His Son, there is exceeding abundant unmerited favour of God, there is exceeding overflowing GRACE! Is all the unbeliever has to do is BELIEVE in their heart and they receive His grace, they can't lose his favour, once they have it and they can't do anything to receive it! What an impact on such a spirit that is broken?

So why don't the broken hearted flock to Christ?

It is because of spiritual blindness (see Eph.4: 18).

When a person's eyes are opened to God's grace, to his love, then they believe the truth of the gospel. And once they are saved they are given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ (see Eph.4: 7).

An illustration of God's grace is the love which a parent has for their children....Most parents love their children unconditionally, regardless of what they do the parent loves them. Some parents show their unconditional love to their children daily and tell them about it, and others do not. Perhaps for those of us who are parents we need to take the example of our God who tells us in His word that he loves us, and we have unconditional favour in his sight, IN Christ. Perhaps we need to be telling our children more and showing them more of our unconditional love and favour. Now that's something to think about for those who are parents.

One thing I remember from Bible College is a book that Karen read by Philip Yancey, *Whats so Amazing about Grace?* I remember it because it really had an affect on Karen. I haven't read it but then, there is no better book to read on God's grace, than the Scriptures.

Let us all take something from this teaching that we can use in our daily lives. Let us ask God to help us know in our hearts His exceeding abundant grace and give us the wisdom and discernment to share His unmerited favour in Christ with others.

Having said what we have said, let us say it again.

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