

**Series: Blessed to Be a Blessing**  
**"God's Grace: Abounding Through Us"**

**Introduction:**

1. In 1 Chronicles 17 King David had a desire in his heart to build the Lord a house. He wanted it to glorify the Lord and His name (17:24).
  - From that desire he began to make preparation and prepare Solomon (his son) - 22:5
  - But David realized that this couldn't be a one-man building project. He had to have help.
  - David took the need right to the people and they responded in a big way (29:6-9). Notice that they offered willingly, joyfully, and with perfect heart (Israel had some sour moments in their history, but this is one of their most glorious).
  - The need was met, and a few chapters later we see a magnificent temple erected and the glory of the Lord filling it.
2. I realize that we aren't building a temple today. **We** are the temple of God today. He doesn't dwell in physical structures, but in people!
3. But I wanted to read this to you to get you to see what can happen when a group of people join their minds and hearts together toward a common goal, with the basis of it all being to glorify the Lord and His name.
4. This story fascinates me because the people gave willingly - they didn't give out of law, but out of love. They didn't give grudgingly (David is the king so we better get involved), but out of grace.
5. Did you know this is how God wants the grace believer to give today? Not out of guilt, fear, law, coercion, or even necessity, but out of love and pure grace.

**Grace giving involves three principles:**

**God's grace abounding to us**

1. Do you know what grace is? It is receiving the favor, acceptance, and approval of God when you don't deserve it.
2. When we were abounding in sin against God, God abounded in grace towards us. **Romans 5:20** (We sing a song "Grace Greater Than Our Sin.")
3. Grace means that even though I have abounded in sin, God is offering me righteousness before Him and eternal life with Him. **Romans 5:21**
  - What is the basis of this offer of grace? Jesus Christ our Lord. (His cross-work).
4. Christ gave up everything for our sinful souls (**2 Corinthians 8:9**). We who were spiritually bankrupt are now spiritually rich before God and it's all because of Jesus.

**God's grace abounding in us**

1. In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul had a project he was trying to raise money towards. It was an offering to help the poor saints at Jerusalem (Hurricane Katrina).
2. Paul fully expected the grace of Christ to work in these Christians - **2 Corinthians 8:7-9**
3. Paul expected God's grace to do something in these believers. "You are abounding in faith, utterance, etc., and I expect you to abound in the grace of giving."

4. His grace that has abounded **to us** abounds **in us** and produces the fruit of a thankful, giving heart. Why do we give to God? Out of love and appreciation for His grace.
  - When we give our resources to God's work, it is a natural response to His grace that has abounded to us. It's proof that His grace is working in us. 9:13-14

#### **God's grace abounding through us**

1. In response to His grace, we have **hearts** that want to give. 9:7
2. But look at verse 8. God then abounds back towards us with all grace, providing all sufficiency in all things.
3. Why? So we can keep abounding in every good work! His grace keeps everything moving and flowing.
4. God's grace is the fuel tank (His grace provides the spiritual capacity to want to give), but then His grace keeps pumping fuel to the engine (providing the ability to give).
5. It is then we begin to **abound** in the grace of giving.
6. God's grace is no longer just a Biblical doctrine, it is abounding through you. You can **see it** at work in your life as you give cheerfully and bountifully to God.
  - This is the Christian life as it is supposed to be lived.

#### **In Conclusion:**

1. The world says, "Get all you can - and can all you get." Keep accumulating earthly treasure. You know what happens? You die and leave it all behind. Those you left it to live it up for two or three years and everything you worked your whole life for is gone.
2. There is another way to live. It's called the grace life. His grace not only saves you, but abounds in you and through you. You long to give, you love to give, you live to give.
3. And Paul says, the fruit of your giving abounds to your account in heaven. The fruit of your living the grace life is waiting for you when you get to heaven.