

# 1 Timothy 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

## Analysis

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**And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.** Paul describes grace's superabundance using a rare Greek verb *hyperpleonazō* (ὑπερπλεονάζω)—literally "to super-abound" or "overflow exceedingly." Where sin abounded, grace super-abounded (Romans 5:20). God didn't merely forgive Paul's sin; He lavished grace upon him, transforming him completely and appointing him to apostolic ministry. Grace exceeded Paul's sin, guilt, and unworthiness.

This super-abundant grace came "with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (meta pisteōs kai agapēs tēs en Christō Iēsou, μετὰ πίστεως καὶ ἀγάπης τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ). The preposition *meta* (μετά) indicates accompaniment—grace came accompanied by or producing faith and love. These aren't human achievements earning grace but grace's effects. When God shows saving mercy, He gives faith to believe and love to respond. Both are gifts, not prerequisites.

Crucially, this faith and love are "in Christ Jesus"—not generic spirituality but specific trust in and affection for the incarnate Son of God. Faith believes Christ's promises and trusts His finished work; love responds to His beauty and worthiness. Both find their object, source, and sphere in Christ. Apart from union with Christ, neither saving faith nor transforming love exists. The grace that justified Paul also sanctified him, producing the faith and love that characterized his new life.

## Historical Context

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Paul's emphasis on grace's super-abundance directly counters the legalistic tendencies among false teachers. Where legalism measures carefully and calculates what's deserved, grace overwhelms calculation and defies merit. The extravagant nature of God's grace to Paul—saving the church's greatest enemy and making him its premier apostle—demonstrated that salvation operates by radically different principles than human religion.

The transformation Paul experienced on the Damascus road (Acts 9) instantaneously changed his fundamental allegiance, understanding, and purpose. What had been gain he counted loss; whom he persecuted he now served. This dramatic reversal wasn't Paul's achievement but grace's effect. Yet his transformation wasn't merely intellectual or positional but moral and affectional—he received faith to believe gospel truths and love to serve Christ and His church.

In the broader context of this letter, Paul's testimony establishes that Christian ministry flows from grace experienced, not law observed. False teachers who promoted law and works didn't understand grace's transforming power. Their ministry produced controversy and empty speculation; Paul's gospel of grace produced faith, love, and transformed lives. The difference between legalism and grace is evident in their respective fruits.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How frequently do you meditate on grace's super-abundance in your life, and what effect does this produce?
2. In what ways do you practically depend on God's grace for daily faith and love rather than trying to produce these yourself?
3. How can you tell whether your faith and love are genuinely "in Christ Jesus" or mixed with other motivations?

## Interlinear Text

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ὑπερεπλεόνασεν	δὲ	τῆς	χάρις	τῆς	κυρίου	ἡμῶν
was exceeding abundant	And	which	the grace	which	Lord	of our
G5250	G1161	G3588	G5485	G3588	G2962	G2257
μετὰ πίστεως καὶ ἀγάπης τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ						
with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus						
G3326	G4102	G2532	G26	G3588	G1722	G5547
						G2424

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Timothy 1:13** (Faith): Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 15:10** (Grace): But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

**2 Corinthians 13:14** (Grace): The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

**1 Peter 1:3** (Grace): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**Romans 16:20** (Grace): And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

**1 John 4:10** (Love): Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**Exodus 34:6** (Grace): And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

**2 Corinthians 8:9** (Grace): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

**1 Thessalonians 1:3** (Faith): Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

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