

2 Corinthians 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

Analysis

For all things are for your sakes (ta gar panta di' hymas, τὰ γὰρ πάντα δι' ὑμᾶς)—Paul's sufferings, ministry, and even his life are for the Corinthians' benefit. Di' hymas (δι' ὑμᾶς, 'on account of you, for your sake') shows others-centered purpose. This is vicarious existence: living for others' good rather than self-preservation.

That the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God (hina hē charis pleonasasa dia tōn pleionōn tēn eucharistian perisseusē eis tēn doxan tou theou, ἵνα ἡ χάρις πλεονάσασα διὰ τῶν πλειόνων τὴν εὐχαριστίαν περισσεύσῃ εἰς τὴν δόξαν τοῦ θεοῦ)—pleonazō (πλεονάζω, 'to increase, abound, multiply') and perisseuō (περισεύω, 'to overflow, abound') create cascading abundance. More grace produces more thanksgiving from more people, resulting in more glory to God. Paul's suffering sets off a chain reaction of grace, gratitude, and glory.

Historical Context

This verse captures Paul's missional theology: individual suffering has cosmic, God-glorifying purpose. In a patronage culture where benefactors expected gratitude and honor for themselves, Paul redirects all thanksgiving to God. He's not the source of grace but its conduit. The Corinthians' gratitude should flow through Paul to God, not terminate on Paul.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you view your life and service as genuinely 'for others' sake,' or is that pious language masking self-interest?
2. How does the grace-thanksgiving-glory chain reaction work in your community—where does it get interrupted or diverted?
3. In what ways might your suffering, faithfully endured, multiply grace and thanksgiving in ways you can't yet see?

Interlinear Text

τὰ	γὰρ	πάντα	διὰ	ὑμᾶς	ἵνα	ἡ	χάρις	πλεονάσασα
G3588	For	all things	are for	your	that	G3588	grace	the abundant
	G1063	G3956	G1223	G5209	G2443		G5485	G4121

διὰ	τῶν	πλειόνων	τὴν	εὐχαριστίαν	περισσεύση	εἰς
are for	G3588	of many	G3588	the thanksgiving	might	to
G1223		G4119		G2169	G4052	G1519

τὴν	δόξαν	τοῦ	θεοῦ
G3588	the glory	G3588	of God
	G1391		G2316

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:28 (References God): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 1:11 (Parallel theme): Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

2 Corinthians 8:19 (Grace): And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:

Psalms 50:14 (References God): Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 50:23 (References God): Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

Galatians 1:24 (Glory): And they glorified God in me.

1 Peter 4:11 (Glory): If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

2 Timothy 2:10 (Glory): Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.