

2 Corinthians 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

Analysis

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also—Paul catalogues Corinthian spiritual strengths: *pistis* (πίστις, 'faith'), *logos* (λόγος, 'word/utterance'), *gnōsis* (γνῶσις, 'knowledge'), *spoudē* (σπουδή, 'earnestness/diligence'), and *agapē* (ἀγάπη, 'love'). These echo 1 Corinthians 1:5-7 where Paul acknowledged their giftedness. The verb *perisseuō* (περισσεύω, 'abound/overflow/excel') appears twice—they excel in spiritual gifts but must also excel in *tautē tē chariti* ('this grace') of giving.

Paul's pastoral wisdom shines here: he affirms genuine strengths before addressing weakness. The Corinthians were doctrinally informed and charismatically gifted but practically inconsistent. Paul doesn't minimize their gifts; rather, he shows that spiritual excellence without generous stewardship is incomplete. The phrase *tē ex hymōn en hēmin agapē* ('your love to us') reminds them of relational bonds that should motivate material support. Maturity means all graces working in harmony—doctrine, devotion, and dollars aligned.

Historical Context

Corinth was a wealthy commercial city at the crossroads of Mediterranean trade. The church included both slaves and wealthy householders (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). Their theological sophistication and spiritual giftedness (evidenced by

extensive charismatic activity in 1 Corinthians 12-14) didn't automatically translate to financial generosity. Paul had to teach them that gospel transformation affects economic behavior, not just religious experience.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Which spiritual 'graces' come easily to you, and which require more cultivation?
2. How can theological knowledge and spiritual experience coexist with financial stinginess?
3. What would it mean for you to 'abound' in generosity as you do in other areas of faith?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ'	ῶσπερ	ἐν	πάσῃ	περισσεύητε	πίστει	καὶ
Therefore	as	in	every	ye abound	thing in faith	also
G235	G5618	G1722	G3956	G4052	G4102	G2532
λόγῳ	καὶ	γνώσει	καὶ	πάσῃ	σπουδῇ	καὶ τῇ ἐξ
utterance	also	knowledge	also	every	diligence	also
G3056	G2532	G1108	G2532	G3956	G4710	G3588 G1537
ὑμῶν	ἐν	ἡμῖν	ἀγάπῃ	ἴνα	καὶ	ἐν ταύτῃ τῇ χάριτι
in your	in	us	love	see that	also	in
G5216	G1722	G2254	G26	G2443	G2532	G1722 G3778 G3588 grace
περισσεύητε						
ye abound						
G4052						

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 9:8 (Grace): And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (Faith): We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

1 Corinthians 13:2 (Faith): And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 1:5 (Parallel theme): That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

1 Corinthians 4:7 (Parallel theme): For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

2 Corinthians 8:6 (Grace): Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

Philippians 1:9 (Love): And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

1 Corinthians 12:13 (Parallel theme): For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 13:8 (Love): Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

2 Peter 3:18 (Grace): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

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