

# 2 Corinthians 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

## Analysis

**And by their prayer for you** (καὶ αὐτῶν δεήσει ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν)—deēsis (δέησις, "prayer, petition, supplication") indicates earnest, specific intercession. Generosity creates prayer partnership: recipients intercede for givers. This reverses typical patronage where clients flatter patrons seeking favor. Here, spiritual benefit flows to givers through recipients' prayers—blessed reciprocity.

**Which long after you** (ἐπιποθούτων ὑμᾶς)—epipothēō (ἐπιποθέω, "long for, yearn for") expresses intense affectionate desire. The Jerusalem believers don't merely thank Corinthians but deeply love them, longing for personal relationship. Generosity creates affection between giver and receiver—both recognize shared participation in God's grace. Money becomes relational bridge, not cold transaction.

**For the exceeding grace of God in you** (διὰ τὴν ὑπερβάλλουσαν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐφ' ὑμῖν)—hyperballousa (ὑπερβάλλουσα, "surpassing, extraordinary, exceeding") modifies **grace** (charis, χάρις). The Jerusalem believers recognize Corinthian generosity as supernatural—evidence of God's extraordinary grace at work. No one gives sacrificially from natural inclination; generosity proves grace. Recipients don't see donors' virtue but God's grace through them. This keeps both giver and receiver humble, gratefully worshiping the true Source.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Mediterranean culture, benefaction created social debts and hierarchy—clients became obligated to patrons. Paul transforms this dynamic: the 'payment' for generosity is not social power but prayer support and spiritual affection. The impoverished Jerusalem believers have nothing material to offer wealthy Corinthians, but their prayers are invaluable currency in God's economy. This radically equalizes relationships, making generosity genuine fellowship (*koinōnia*) rather than patronizing charity.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does receiving earnest prayer from those you've helped financially enrich you spiritually?
2. Do recipients of your generosity see your personal virtue or God's extraordinary grace working through you—and which do you want them to see?
3. How can you structure giving relationships to foster mutual prayer and affection rather than hierarchical patronage?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	αὐτῶν	δεήσει	ὑπὲρ	ὑμῶν	ἐπιποθούντων	ὑμᾶς	διὰ
And	by their	prayer	for	you	which long after	you	for
G2532	G846	G1162	G5228	G5216	G1971	G5209	G1223
τὴν	ὑπερβάλλουσιν	χάριν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἐφ'	ὑμῖν	
G3588	the exceeding	grace	G3588	of God	in	you	
	G5235	G5485		G2316	G1909	G5213	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 1:14** (Grace): And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:1** (Parallel theme): Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

**2 Corinthians 8:1** (Grace): Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

**Philippians 1:8** (References God): For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

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