

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 (ἐπιποθούντων 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

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

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 ὑπερβάλλουσαν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐφ' ὑμῖν

G3588 **the exceeding** G5235 G3588 G2316 G1909 G5213
grace G5485 **of God** **in** **you**

Additional Cross-References

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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