

2 Corinthians 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

And God is able (δυνατεῖ δὲ ὁ θεός)—The verb dynateō (δυνατέω, "is powerful, able") assures anxious givers that generosity never outstrips God's provision. This addresses the fear beneath stinginess: "If I give, will I have enough?" **To make all grace abound toward you** (πᾶσαν χάριν περισσεῦσαι εἰς ὑμᾶς) uses perisseuō (περισεύω, "overflow, exceed, abound") with **all grace** (πᾶσαν χάριν)—comprehensive, abundant supply. Grace isn't merely spiritual; it includes material provision for generous living.

That ye, always having all sufficiency in all things (ἵνα ἐν παντὶ πάντοτε πᾶσαν αὐτάρκειαν ἔχοντες)—the threefold "all" (πᾶς) emphasizes totality: every circumstance, every time, every kind of sufficiency. Autarkeia (αὐτάρκεια, "self-sufficiency, contentment") was a Stoic virtue—independence from external circumstances. Paul baptizes this concept: Christian contentment comes not from self-sufficiency but God-sufficiency (Phil 4:11-13, 19).

May abound to every good work (περισεεύητε εἰς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν)—the verb perisseuō appears again. God's provision creates a cycle: He gives abundantly, we have sufficiency, therefore we can give abundantly, bringing glory to Him. The purpose of God's grace isn't hoarding but overflow into good works. Generosity begets generosity.

Historical Context

In subsistence economies, scarcity mentality dominated. Most people lived one failed harvest from starvation. The idea that giving wouldn't create destitution but rather abundance seemed fantastical. Paul promises supernatural provision—a radical claim requiring faith in God's covenant faithfulness. The early church's dramatic generosity (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37) demonstrated this principle's reality, creating a countercultural economic community.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's provision enabling continued or increased generosity?
2. What fears about future scarcity currently hinder present generosity—and how does this verse address those fears?
3. How does viewing your resources as God-given 'sufficiency for every good work' rather than private property affect your financial decisions?

Interlinear Text

δυνατὸς	δὲ	ὁ	θεὸς	πᾶν	χάριν	περισσεύετε	εἰς	ὕμᾱς
is able	And	^{G3588}	God	all	grace	abound	to	you
G1415	G1161		G2316	G3956	G5485	G4052	G1519	G5209
ἵνα	ἐν	πᾶν	πάντοτε	πᾶν	αὐτάρκειαν	ἔχοντες		
that	in	all	ye always	all	sufficiency	having		
G2443	G1722	G3956	G3842	G3956	G841	G2192		
περισσεύετε	εἰς	πᾶν	ἔργον	ἀγαθόν				
abound	to	all	work	good				
G4052	G1519	G3956	G2041	G18				

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Proverbs 10:22 (Parallel theme): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Malachi 3:10 (Parallel theme): Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Haggai 2:8 (Parallel theme): The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Proverbs 28:27 (Parallel theme): He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Psalms 84:11 (Grace): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 3:9 (Parallel theme): Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

Titus 3:14 (Good): And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (Grace): 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.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

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