



“ABOUND IN EVERYTHING!” **2 Corinthians Chapter 8**

> (v1-6) WHEN GRACE ABOUNDS!

- There is:

- #1 – **JOY** in great affliction! (v2)
- #2 – **GENEROSITY** in deep poverty! (v2-3)
- #3 – **FELLOWSHIP** in distant separation! (v3-4)
- #4 – **LOVE** for the LORD & ONE ANOTHER! (v5)

> **Observe: Two lives, two gods, two destinies in Luke 21:1-4 vs. Matthew 19:16-22:**
Luke 21:1-4 - *And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."*

Matthew 19:16-22 – *Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."*

He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

> (v7-15) ABOUND IN EVERYTHING!!!

(v7) In:

- **FAITH** - A belief in or confident attitude toward God, involving commitment to His will for one's life. (Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.)

- Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- **Let's put FAITH INTO ACTION** according to James 2:14-26 - *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble!*

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it

was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- **SPEECH** - Matthew 12:34-36 - *For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. (James Ch. 3)*

- **KNOWLEDGE** - Psalms 119:65-66 - *You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments. (Someone once told some young people, "Stay in college, get some knowledge. If God can make penicillin out of some moldy bread, he can make something out of you." Peter tells us to ". . . grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

- **LOVE** – Observe our supreme example in John 3:16:

God	the greatest <u>GIVER</u>
so loved	the greatest <u>MOTIVE</u>
the world	the greatest <u>NEED</u>
that He gave	the greatest <u>ACT</u>
His only Son	the greatest <u>GIFT</u>
that whosoever	the greatest <u>INVITATION</u>
believes in Him	the greatest <u>OPPORTUNITY</u>
should not perish	the greatest <u>DELIVERANCE</u>
but have eternal life!	the greatest <u>JOY!</u>

- Jesus said in John 13:34-35 -*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

- The word LOVE is found 361 times in the Bible, that's almost enough love for an entire year. This gives us only 4 days a year to slack off, just kidding!

> **Let's put TRUE LOVE INTO ACTION according to 1 Corinthians Ch. 13:4-8:**

- *"Love suffers long"* – To be long-spirited, i.e. forbearing or patient.

- *"Love is kind"* – The word used here denotes to be good-natured, gentle, tender, affectionate, to show oneself useful, courteous, i.e. to act benevolently.

- *"Love does not envy"* – A feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his possessions or good qualities.

- *"Love does not parade itself"* – The idea is that of boasting, bragging vaunting. Most expositors suppose that it has the notion of boasting; or vaunting of one's own excellencies or endowments. This spirit proceeds from the idea of "superiority" over others; and is connected with feeling of contempt or disregard for them.

- ***“Love is not puffed up”*** – This word means to blow, to puff, to paint, to inflate with pride, and vanity, and self-esteem.

- ***“Love does not behave rudely”*** – To act unseemly or unbecoming. To speak in a condescending or crude manner, to be discourteous.

- ***“Love does not seek its own”*** – True love is not selfish, self-centered, or self-absorbed. We are to love others, to seek their welfare with self-denial, to respond with personal sacrifice and toil.

- ***“Love is not provoked”*** - To be quickly stirred to anger, to have a short temper.

- ***“Love thinks no evil”*** – That is, to have a continual belief that the motives and heart of another is for the good. Meaning, that your love is not malicious or desires to find fault in others, but your thoughts and speech will dwell upon the good. (Philippians 4:8)

- ***“Love does not rejoice in iniquity”*** – Love does not rejoice in sinful practices of our world, nor do we take delight when a fellow believer falls into sin. Christians find pleasure in hearing others accused of sin, and in having it proved that they committed it. But true love will pray for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.

- ***“Love rejoices in the truth”*** – Love rejoices in virtue, godliness, righteousness, and goodness. It does not rejoice in the "vices," but in the "virtues" of others. Love rejoices when others "do well."

- ***“Love bears all things”*** - The Greek word for “bears” are *stegei*, which means to "cover," "hide," "conceal," not to make known. This means that love is disposed to hide or conceal the faults and imperfections of others, not to publicize them.

- ***“Love believes all things”*** – This love has a disposition to believe that brothers and sisters in Christ are actuated by good motives, and that they intend no injury; and that there is a willingness to suppose, as far as can be, that what is done is done consistently with friendship, good feeling, and virtue.

- ***“Love hopes all things”*** – God’s love is an optimistic, not pessimistic. We have hope for today in Christ, hope for change by the power of the Holy Spirit, and hope for eternity as we look forward to heaven.

- ***“Love endures all things”*** – This Holy Spirit produced love bears up under any stress or strain. It sustains us and does not complain. This love endures all persecutions at the hand of man and will keep on loving no matter the event.

- ***“LOVE NEVER FAILS!”*** - “Fails” is *ekpistei* in Greek, meaning to drop away; to be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, to become inefficient. In other words, God’s love through us never fails or falters, but will have its powerful effect upon everyone and every situation.

(v8-9) Christ our example! - *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

(v10-15) “COMPLETE the doing of it!”- Do you need to finish something you started? “Just do it!”

(v16-24) Let's *ABOUND IN TRUSTWORTHINESS!!!*

(v16-23) Titus “Trustworthy” – Five attributes to trustworthiness:

- (1) Caring,**
- (2) Willingness,**
- (3) Honorable,**
- (4) Diligent,**
- (5) Fellow worker.**

(v24) Show one another the “*PROOF OF YOUR LOVE!*”