



Just A Minute with Scripture

God is Able to Make Grace Abound

What an amazing passage to contemplate: *“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.”* (II Cor. 9:8) This teaches that God is continually *“able”* to lavish us with all spiritual things. Notice how He reinforces this, such as using *“all”* three times and *“every”* once. God puts an exclamation point on this in *verse 11: “Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”*

As *“all grace”* flourishes to us, we are abundantly enabled to abound so we can manifest Christ in our bodies, living our faith in life challenges and ministry work. How is this possible? It is only feasible because of our Father’s boundless love, mercy, and absolute forgiveness toward us. When Jesus submitted to His Father’s will, He died and was resurrected. As believers, this gives us the opportunity to also die; dying to our flesh to instead, live Christ’s resurrection life, yielding to God. (Rom 8: 11-13) The Lord Jesus Christ and God’s grace is then magnified within us.

How do we tap into this grace so it abounds toward us? We are to read, take time to digest it, and then choose to apply what God teaches us from Paul’s epistles. This enables us to live this new grace life. It’s Christ’s life literally being lived through us. Paul relayed some detail about how this occurred in him: *“Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”* (Eph.3:7) Christ the Word is God’s grace gift to us, becoming our sufficiency for all things. Christ is the power and wisdom of God. (I Cor. 1:24)

In thanksgiving, we can offer God our own bodies as a living sacrifice for all He bountifully provides. Further, we can choose to be all He purposed us to be, doing all things for Him: *“Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”* (Eph. 3:21)

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Where Are You Going?

God desires for you to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Since we have a fallen, sinful nature, God sent His Son to die on the cross to pay for all sin, once and for all.

To live forever in heaven with God, believe that Christ’s shed blood paid for every one of your sins. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)



Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

Galatians is a book written to the churches of Galatia. They had believed the gospel of grace and were actively living out the doctrine, yet they were bewitched and turned aside unto another gospel. Therefore, Paul set them straight and reminded them who they were, sons.

Verses this Month: *Galatians 4:6-7*

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

1. Read through these verses. What

would you say is the key word, a repeated term in the passage?

2. Define the use of the word “sons,” observing the context. Look at *Romans 8:14* to see if it helps you in your understanding.

3. What does it mean to cry “Abba Father?” Check how it was used in *Romans 8:15* and *Mark 14:36*.

4. Verse 7 states we are no longer “servants,” but “sons.” Read the context of this passage. A “servant” and child do not have the same status as “sons.” Explain using vs. 1-3. Now, as “son,” what do we have?

“Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.” *II Corinthians 9:15*

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: The world seems to be going crazy. How am I to respond?

God has generally instructed us about what we can expect in this world. We are to be prepared: *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come...Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”* (1 Tim. 3:1,12-13)

God knows everything before it happens (*Rom. 4:17*) and anticipates all of Satan’s tactics. Knowing His warning for these “last days,” the world’s state should not take us by surprise.

II Timothy 3:14-17 instructs us to continue to build sound doctrine in our souls, hold forth the Word to the lost, and edify the saints. Finally, we are to endure afflictions. (*II Tim. 4:1-5*)

The Exceeding Grace of God

God cares so much for mankind that He made it easy to be saved. He justifies all who simply believe in the finished work of Christ, faith in His blood sacrifice. Immediately, a person’s dead spirit is quickened, made alive, and given God’s Spirit so that he can be properly instructed in the grace doctrine written for the Body of Christ. This enables this new saint to live resurrection life, which is Christ’s life.

As we read sound doctrine directed to the Body of Christ (*Romans-Philemon*), it is taken into our inner man, which empowers us to learn and mature. This is how God forms Christ in us to gain His mind, conforming us to His image: *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* (*Romans 8:29*)

When we are open and humble, God transforms us and our mind is renewed. (*Rom. 12:2*) In this way, as we dwell on the word, God quickens our mortal body to bring forth holy fruit: *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”* (*Rom. 8:11*) Truly, what is deposited into our spirit and soul is an unspeakable gift. As Christ is resident in us, we are enabled to manifest His life and character in our earthen vessels. Read/study *Romans 6-8* to progress to live grace in your mortal body.



Press On! by Melinda Weidman *(Inspired by Eph. 3-4)*

**Press on! Standing firm in the faith.
Press on! Knowing you have been saved by grace.
Look forward to the Hope you have found,
Let go of the past, no longer bound.**

**Press on! Your God is calling.
Press on! Knowing he keeps you from falling.
Do not live as an enemy of the cross,
For when judgment comes, it will be your loss.**

**Press on! Do not live for the things of the earth.
Press on! Knowing you will have your heavenly birth.
Soon he will come; our bodies will be transformed,
Many will fall away, but we will be reborn.**

**Press on! In his name rejoice!
Press on! Let the Lord hear your voice!
Do not worry but pray and ask,
The Lord provides the peace that you lack.**

**Press on! With everything in Thanksgiving.
Press on! Following him in Godly living.
These things lovely, right, pure, and true,
Those honorable, excellent, praiseworthy in all you do.**

**Press on! God gives us strength and we are strong.
Press on! Carry your cross as you go along.
Let these words have on your life a new lease.
May the God of love grant to you his peace.**

Questions & Answers

With

Deborah (Cont. from p. 2)

Question 2: Reading the Scripture seems overwhelming to me. What's your advice?

It's a lifelong journey to learn about the Bible, so take your time, start slow, and recall it's God's own Word. Read a small section, think, then slowly read it a few more times. Ask questions, such as: "What does this verse mean?" or "How can I apply this in my life?"

The best way to approach the Bible is to read it and talk to God about what you don't understand, then think on new insights. Write things down so you can refer back to it later, build upon it, and use it in living. Obtain a study partner with spiritual understanding to help with questions, who also will point you to Truth.

Question 3: How can I submit to my husband when I know he makes mistakes?

As you choose to submit to God and His Word, it can be challenging to appreciate how some things are personally good for you. Trust God whether you understand or not. Recall how He knows all things and loves you exceedingly more than you can fathom; He is for you. So, can you trust and obey God to walk by faith, even when you are frustrated and lack clarity?

Everyone makes mistakes, including you. When your husband is wrong, choose to have reverence for him and his authority. (*Rom. 13*) This allows him grace to learn and grow to be conformed to Christ. Patience!

As you have opportunity, give your input as his "*help meet for him.*" (*Gen. 2:18*) Share a few insights on the topic, ideally from the Word. This provides an opportunity for you to impact his thinking and decisions.

At times, your ideas may not be acceptable to his viewpoint. Prayer can be helpful: "*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" (*Phil. 4:6-7*) Trust God, as He knows your struggles.

Question 4: Has the Scripture really been preserved?

Every word has been safeguarded by God: "*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven time. Thou shalt keep them O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*" (*Ps. 12:6-7*) Will you believe what God says or the doubts in your heart? Think on this!



Fellowship & Bible Study

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What it Means to Be Holy by Erin Young

The word 'holy' is known within Christianity; most believers know the term. What does this word mean? Many believe it means to be perfect through their flesh, doing enough good deeds to earn the title of a holy person. A Scriptural definition is to be holy and without blame before God. (*Romans 5:1-2, Colossians 1:4*) Thus, there are two aspects. First, once we believe, we have a fixed, holy position with God. *Colossians 1:22: "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight."* The verse tells us that Christ's sacrifice on the cross makes us positionally holy with God.

Second is our functional, holy walk. *Galatians 3:3 "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"* Trying to do good with fleshly works does not make us holy in our daily lives. We achieve that when we walk according to what we believe, fully persuaded by the sound doctrine of the Word. Though the word 'holy' is often thought of as being perfect by the flesh, Scripture teaches that it is by living what God teaches us, then our mind is renewed, becoming transformed and functionally holy unto God: *Colossians 1:28 "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."*

The Word of God tells us we are made perfect through living life by the Lord Jesus Christ, becoming renewed and transformed: *Ephesians 5:27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* This is a fuller meaning of what it is to be holy.

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Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

