

“AS YE ABOUND IN EVERYTHING”

INTRODUCTION

- I. The word “abound” (meaning “*possessing in abundance, plentiful*”) is found many times in the N.T.
 - A. It refers to some 20 different things wherein Christians are urged to abound, or to possess in abundance.
 - B. One time Paul wrote the Corinthians and reminded them that they had ALREADY “abounded in 5 things (in spite of having rebuked them for some things in which they should NOT “abound.
 - C. He told them that they already were abounding in **faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence and love**, and are then told to abound in one more thing, **grace**. Read 2 Cor. 8:7.
- II. Now let’s examine these 6 things in more detail.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the Corinthians abounded in FAITH. (text)

- A. They actually began this Christian journey of believing what they were told BY Paul when he first preached the gospel there. Acts 18:1-8; Rom. 10:17
 1. They also were blessed with many spiritual gifts, probably more than any congregation in the first century.
 2. However, they abused these gifts, and idolized them to the extent of being rebuked for their misuse, and were instructed in a proper use of them.
- B. As carnally minded and divisive as they were, they STILL had their strong belief in God, Christ, and the scriptures, that they were TO abound in one other thing especially. 2 Cor. 8:7

II. 2nd, the Corinthians abounded in UTTERANCE. (text)

- A. The word “utterance” is a noun, which is from the original Greek language of the N.T., *logos*, which is usually translated “**word.**”
 1. The word *logos* is the word describing the existence of our Lord—**before coming to earth**. John 1:1-3, 14
 2. Then, the same word, *logos*, is the major word FOR “word”, when describing the inspired word of God, or scripture. 2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2; Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23
 3. The word “utterance” in 2 Cor. 8:7 is translated “to speak” in describing the “utterance” of the apostles on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fell on them. Acts 2:4
- B. “To speak” an “utterance” follows the first word “faith” in which the Corinthians already abounded. Read 2 Cor. 8:7

III. 3rd, the Corinthians abounded in KNOWLEDGE. (text)

- A. The Corinthians not only had the spiritual “gift” of knowledge, but also attained to that which was produced BY the word of God in their Christian life.
 1. Having “faith” and “knowledge”, it resulted in the words of faith, which was a KNOWLEDGE of that which increased day by day, as the “gift” of knowledge would gradually be replaced as they had access to the written word.
 2. The word “knowledge” is a *noun* form of the word “know” (a *verb*).
 3. The Lord wants ALL to increase in a knowledge of His word. Acts 20:32; 2 Pet. 3:18
- B. The apostles spoke of the importance of “knowledge.” Eph. 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:5, 8; 3:18
 1. We begin by reading **some** of the Bible every day, and form a habit of doing so.
 2. We abound in knowledge as we **meditate** on God’s word. Psa. 1:1-2

3. We continue by participating in every opportunity provided by the church, TO “study” in Bible classes and worship.
 4. We continue by putting the word into practice by using it in an effort to convert someone to the Lord.
 - a. Don’t be embarrassed if a prospective convert asks you questions you can’t answer.
 - b. Tell him or her that you will FIND the answer and get back with them, and this way you will grow in your knowledge of truth.
- C. A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, when being **satisfied** WITH that little amount, and then trying to deal with matters with that limited amount of knowledge, as we NEED all the information available on any subject. Phil. 1:9; Col. 1:9-10

IV. 4th, the Corinthians abounded in DILIGENCE. (text)

A. The word “diligence” means *“earnestness, hasten to do a thing, endeavoring, or to study.”* 2 Tim. 2:15 (ASV); cf 1 Pet. 1:10; 2 Pet. 3:14

B. This “diligence” or **zeal** is of NO VALUE, without it being based on the KNOWLEDGE already received from the apostle Paul.

1. False teachers are often “zealous” and diligent to make converts to their false religion, but such is NOT based on “knowledge”.
2. Televangelists often are “zealous” for you to send them your money.
3. Zeal without knowledge is not good, and knowledge should come before zeal is exercised. Rom. 10:1-3

V. 5th, the Corinthians bounded in LOVE. (text)

A. However, their love was apparently ONLY for Paul or other teachers more than the word.

B. Paul had spent a whole chapter ON “love” in 1 Cor. 13.

1. Paul appreciated their love for him, and others who had taught them.
2. However, they also needed to have more love for God and His word, as He (Paul) truly loved them. 2 Cor. 12:15
3. Also, they were to love one another and not be divided among themselves.

CONCLUSION

I. Finally, Paul wanted the Corinthians to abound in one more thing—the “grace” of giving, as he mentioned earlier in this chapter, and **not referring to God’s SAVING “grace”** when they were first obedient.

A. He reminds them of the example of other churches in the area who HAD “abounded” in the grace of giving through their liberality. 2 Cor. 8:1-5

B. Now, based on their OTHER areas of abounding (which we have just analyzed), they were to **“see”**, or make sure, that they abound in THIS grace also, by being liberal.

II. At this time we extend the invitation to anyone present who is subject to it.

DON TARBET