

MESSAGE

Occasion : Thanksgiving Through Firstfruits Sunday
Theme : Being Joined Together, Each Part Effectually Working to Edify the Ekklesia the Love of Christ
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon / Online Live Streaming
Date : September 19, 2021 / September 26, 2021

TITLE : THE THANKSGIVING OF MANY BECAUSE OF THE ALL GRACE OF THE ABLE GOD
Text/s :

1 Peter 5:10

10 But **the God of all grace**, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

KJV

2 Cor 9:8-12

8 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:

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 **For the administration of this service** not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

KJV

2 Cor 4:15

15 **For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.**

KJV

Bible Reading :

2 Cor 4:1-15

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.
15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
KJV

Rom 12:6-21

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.
14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
KJV

Song/s :

- Blessed Assurance
- Grace Greater Than Our Sin
- Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Other references :

Instructions :

INTRODUCTION

1 Peter 5:10

10 But **the God of all grace**, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.
KJV

2 Cor 9:8-12

8 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:
9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.
10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)
11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;
KJV

2 Cor 4:15

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

KJV

Observe the terms used in these passages:

- Our God is the God of all grace
- God is able (has the power) to make all grace about toward us resulting to
 - Always (in all times, period of our lives here on earth)
 - Having all sufficiency
 - In all things (areas of our life and godliness)
 - We may abound to every good work
- As His ability, God Who ministers seed to the sower and bread for our food, also multiplies our seed sown and increase the fruits of our righteousness

2 Cor 9:10

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

KJV

2 Cor 9:10

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

NKJV

2 Cor 9:10

10 He who provides both seed for the planter and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your tzedakah.

CJB

2 Cor 9:10

10 And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity]. [Isa 55:10; Hos 10:12.]

AMP

- As we are enriched in everything to all bountifulness, thanksgiving to God happens
- “The administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgiving.”

“The faithful stewardship of the grace of God provides for the needs of His people; and His grace flows even more abundantly because of their faithful stewardship. Consequently, many become willing to offer thanksgivings to God. These “many thanksgivings,” are then made into one because a church is one body in Christ. The “many thanksgivings” therefore results to one “thanksgiving of many”

Eph 3:7-8

7 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.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

KJV

Acts 20:24

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

KJV

- The abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

BODY

Have we really thought about the ability of God that is presented in this text?

Realize that this verse does not just discuss about the mercy, love, grace and all other attributes of God. It just presents God as being Able. Paul does not simply say, God is good. He says, God is able. Not God heals. But God is Able.

Remember the song...

He's Able, He's able, I know He's able
I know my Lord is able to carry you through.
He heals the broken hearted
He sets the captive free
He makes the lame to walk again
And cause the blind to see...
He's able, He's able, I know He's able
I know my Lord is able to carry me through.

The problem here is this...

All ability of God stated in this song, is simply refers to the ability to bestow something to a recipient and nothing more. Nothing is said about what happens next to the recipients.

Phil 2:25-30

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

KJV

A) God is Able.

Ps 84:11-12

11 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.

12 O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

KJV

2 Cor 8:9

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
KJV

B) God is able to bestow all grace and make it to abound in us.

2 Cor 9:8

8 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:
KJV

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the **manifold grace of God**.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
KJV

2 Cor 6:1

6 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.
KJV

1 Cor 15:10

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
KJV

Col 1:25-29

25 Whereof **I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you**, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.
KJV

Eph 3:2

2 If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward**:
KJV

C) God is able to make the all grace abound always.

In whatever period, whatever situation, whatever time.

2 Cor 9:8

8 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:
KJV

Matt 28:20

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
KJV

Phil 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

KJV

2 Cor 6:10

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

KJV

2 Thess 2:13

13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

KJV

Phil 2:12-16

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

KJV

1 Peter 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

KJV

D) God is able to make all grace abound, so that always, we have all sufficiency.

2 Cor 9:8

8 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:

KJV

All sufficiency in all things.

1 Chron 29:12-16

12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

16 O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

KJV

2 Cor 9:11

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

KJV

2 Cor 3:5

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

KJV

2 Cor 4:7-10

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

KJV

2 Cor 11:22-30

22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

KJV

2 Cor 12:7-11

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

KJV

E) God is able to make all grace abound, so that always, we have all sufficiency in all things.

2 Cor 9:8

8 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:

KJV

2 Cor 8:2-5

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

KJV

Col 1:10-11

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
KJV

2 Cor 12:9

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
KJV

F) God is able to enrich us in every thing, every good work, every ministry.

2 Cor 9:10-12

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

KJV

2 Cor 4:15

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

KJV

G) God is able to make everything redound to His glory because of His all grace.

2 Cor 9:11-12

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

KJV

2 Cor 4:15

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

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1 Peter 4:11

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: **that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

KJV

Eph 3:20-21

20 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,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

KJV

CONCLUSION

THANKSGIVING THROUGH FIRSTFRUITS RECITATION

"..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" (2 Cor 9:8).

"Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God" (2 Cor 9:11-12).

"...that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God" (2 Cor 4:15).

Our Heavenly Father, in the Name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we come to You in Praise and in Thanksgiving for how through this pandemic, we can say as Your people, Your all grace toward us abound, that in Your grace, we always have all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work that please You.

We are recipients of Your manifold grace in Jesus Christ our Lord, grace that we do not just receive, but grace that we steward. May as we recognize that we are stewards, may we be found good stewards before You of such manifold grace because we minister the same one to another; that as we minister, we do all things as of the ability which You only, our God, can give, that in all things You may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praised and dominion for ever and ever. 1 Peter 4:9-10.

May as we minister this service of the manifold grace of God, be found by You to be supplying the want of the saints for edification, for the building up of the body, till we all come in unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, from Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Eph 4:12-16.

We now present ourselves to You, our Heavenly Father, offering to You by way of the firstfruits our Thanksgiving, that in all things, the Lord Jesus might have the preeminence in us as Ekklesia. We honor You with the firstfruits of all the increase of Your "all grace" to us.

In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Pastor's Response

As a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have all and abound. As we we honor God today with "an odor of sweet smell, a thanksgiving sacrifice, acceptable, well-pleasing to God," He "shall supply all our need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:18-19). He shall make our "barns to be filled with plenty and our presses to burst out with new wine" (Prov 3:10).

Let the "thanksgiving of many today redound to the glory of God" (2 Cor 4:15).