

God Is Able

2 Corinthians 9:8



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FOCAL Read Together 2 Corinthians 9:8 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:

I gave my dogs some left overs the other day. One dog quickly ate her portion, and then tried to get the other dog's food. I had to separate the fighting dogs before they hurt one another. If a dog has a god, then its god would be its appetite. A normally good dog, if hungry, will growl - and possibly bite you - if you try to take its food. They don't know any better. Their *approach to life* is to fill their bellies regardless of any moral consideration. That's a dog.

The Bible often uses the word "dog" to describe the person who rejects the One True God for the various false gods of this world. The Apostle Paul told the Church at Phillipi:

Philippians 3:2 **Beware of dogs,** beware of evil workers ...

The Apostle was not warning the Philippians about fuzzy, playful dogs, nor was he warning them about dangerous dobermans. He was warning them about those who - like a dog - chase after false gods while rejecting the Biblical God. Idolatry - the worship of anyone or anything apart from the God of the Bible - leads to doggish behavior.

There are many good examples of idolatry in the news. I'm sure that you've all heard how the **AIG executives** not once but twice took billions of dollars in government

bailout money in order to "stabilize" the company. These same executives used **180 million dollars** of the bailout money to give themselves "bonuses". In my estimation an executive who runs a company into the ground doesn't need a "bonus". The fact that these executives brazenly did what they did is evidence that they were following "Mammon", the false god of money. **"You cannot serve God and Mammon" (Matthew 6:24).**

Mammon isn't the only false god people follow. Some chase after "Power", others after "Sexual Fulfillment", "Popularity", or "Beauty". All idols, whatever they might be, have one thing in common: They draw people away from the One and Only Gracious God Who is able to give us life. Like a gerbil on a wheel the idolater finds himself constantly running toward a goal that he can never reach. There is no satisfaction in idolatry. There is no life in idolatry. There is no peace in idolatry. There is no future in idolatry.

We who are humans were not designed by God to love other things. We were designed to love and to be loved by God. **God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son.** He gave His Son to be our Savior. He gave Jesus Christ to be our Deliverer and our Guide. Christ was given to deliver our souls from death and dead idols:

Psalms 56:13 For Thou {O Lord} hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

So that we could **walk before God in the land of the living. Our God is able to make all grace abound toward** you, if you would but believe in Him. God saves us from our sins by Grace. He provides our present needs by Grace. He has reserved a place in Heaven for us by Grace. The Scripture says that those who reject God in Christ are refused Heaven,

Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Don't be like a dog. Don't let the bones of this world consume your every waking moment. Turn to Jesus. **Call upon Him and He shall deliver you (Psalm 50:15).**

1. Misplaced Faith Destroys Life

FOCAL 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make

All of human life is based on *faith*. The Bible defines faith as:

Hebrews 11:1 ... the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The two words that the Bible uses to define faith is "**substance**" and "**evidence**". Faith in nothing is nothing. Faith without substance or evidence is no more than *foolishness*.

We all have "faith". The unbeliever has "faith" in

something. The atheist has "faith" in something. Everyone has faith.

ILLUSTRATE PHYSICS Science has, for many years now, been trying to explain *where* all things came from. **Physics** teaches us that it believes that the universe originally was formed from a single point that *exploded* (The Big Bang Theory), and that all things came into being out of this "Big Bang" *apart from God*. Yet physics cannot answer several major questions, the largest being **where did the initial matter come from?** Scientifically something must come from something. Faith in physics insofar as creation is concerned has us placing our faith in nothing. Faith in nothing is foolishness.

ILLUSTRATE CHEMISTRY In the scientific field of **chemistry** it is believed that the atom is the basic building block of life, and that all life evolved from the atom. Scientists say that the atom is very small, 10^{-20} (ten to the *negative twentieth power*). Circling the nucleus of the atom are electrons. Scientists have established that - **if the atom were reduced in size to 10^{-33} (ten to the *negative thirty third power*) then it would collapse on itself and create a black hole. The atom could not have therefore evolved into being**, for to do so it would be coming from nothing. Faith in nothing is foolishness.

ILLUSTRATE BIOLOGY In the scientific field of **biology** it is believed that all life evolved from a simple single cell organism that, after billions of years, multiplied. This biological life continued to evolve until it became all the life, both plant and animal, that we see

on the earth today. Yet **scientific biology has never been able to create life from non-life. Scientists cannot explain how the first single cell organism - life - came into being from non-life.** Once more we have faith in nothing, and faith in nothing is foolishness.

The only answer that makes sense is that **God is**. God exists and has always existed. It is God that made all things from nothing. The Bible tells us that:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

God is, and God is able to make. He makes all things from nothing. He is the First Cause of all things. God is the answer to the question, "How can life come from non-life"?

Our Lord Jesus told the Pharisees:

Matthew 3:9 ... God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Our **God is able**. He is able to create life from non-life. **God created man upon the earth (Deuteronomy 4:32).** Creation did not "evolve", but was made by the Lord.

Isaiah 45:18 ... the LORD ... created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited:

The Lord made the Heaven and the earth out of nothing. He **formed the earth to be inhabited**. He designed every plant and every animal on the face of the earth. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that:

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

God made life from non-life. He formed man of the dust of the ground, and our **God who is able** breathed into man **the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

God is immense. God formed everything, and God gave us life. What type of life did God give us? Did He give us *chaotic* life, *confused* life, *painful* life? No, not at all. The Scripture tells us that:

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. {28} And God blessed them, ...

Man was given *perfect* life. We were actually made in the **image of God**. As God creates, we were given the ability to create. As God rules, we were given the ability to rule. As God loves, we were given the ability to love. As God has free will, we were given free will. As God is sinless, we were made sinless and perfect.

God looked at the completed creation:

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, IT WAS VERY GOOD. ...

and **it was very good**. It was not "fair", not "good", not "ok", but "**very good**". There was no sin in creation. Man and woman was placed in a perfect environment in perfect peace in perfect harmony and without pain. But man did that which was forbidden, and in so doing brought the blemish of sin into the world.

Adam put his faith in Eve, and Eve put her faith in an idol. They should have put their faith in the God Who is able!

The Bible tells us that:

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Adam - created in the image of God - failed to believe in His Creator. He turned from the Almighty God Who is without peer, and gave his allegiance to one of God's lesser creations, a lowly serpent. "**That old serpent was the Devil, Satan**" (**Revelation 20:2**). It was the **Angel Lucifer, Satan, who was in Eden, the Garden of God (Ezekiel 28:13)**. It is Satan that anyone follows when they turn away from God to serve an idol as Adam did. Since Adam was the first of mankind his idolatry brought sin - and death by sin - on all of creation.

Why is there pain in the world? Because Adam became an idolater, and in idolatry brought death on all. Why is there pain in the world? Because the children of Adam were not only born with a predisposition to sin, but actively chased after sin.

Romans 6:23 ..."the wages of sin is death" ...

Humanity not only sins, but *makes excuses* for sin - and blames God for the consequences. It is not God Who brought sexually transmitted diseases into the world, but man who has done this. When a child is born with AIDS or HIV people hold God up to ridicule, asking "how can a Loving God allow such a thing?" Our Loving God made us perfect and in His image, and our Loving God warned us from sexual sins. God so wanted to protect His Old Testament Israel that He decreed sexual sins to be a *capital offense*. Those who engaged in **child sacrifice** were put to death (**Leviticus 20:2**), along with those who **mocked their parents** (**Leviticus 20:9**), **committed sexual sin with another person's spouse** (**Leviticus 20:10**), those who engaged in **incest** (**Leviticus 20:11-12**), those who **committed acts of homosexuality** (**Leviticus 20:13**), and those who **committed acts of bestiality** (**Leviticus 20:15**). The **wages of sin is death**, and God wanted to protect His people from destruction. God does not want His Creation to suffer self destruction, but loves all people, and would save everyone if we would but turn unto Him.

**2. Faith In The True God Results In
SUPERABOUNDING Grace**

ILLUSTRATE UNBELIEF There was a little old lady, who every morning stepped onto her front porch, raised her arms to the sky, and after praying, would end her prayers with "PRAISE THE LORD". One day an atheist moved into the house next door. When he saw what the little old lady was doing every day he began to attack her. He would step out on his porch and yell out, "THERE IS NO GOD". One day the little old lady stepped out on her porch to pray, and said, "Praise You, Lord! I'm out of food, Lord. Would You provide for Me according to the riches of Your Grace?" The next morning she stepped out onto her porch and there were two huge bags of groceries sitting there. She said, "Praise You, Lord, for providing me with groceries". The atheist, who was hiding in the hedges, jumped out and said, "I told you there's no God. I bought those groceries!" The little old lady said, "Praise You, Lord! You provided me with groceries, and made the devil pay for them!"

FOCAL 2 Corinthians 9:8 And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you;**

God is, and this God Who is made the heavens and the earth. **God alone is able to make all grace abound toward you.** Let's break this phrase down. First of all, **God is able.** It doesn't say "gods are able" or "I am able" or "You are able" or "things are able". The text tells us that **God is able. God is able to destroy both body and soul in hell (Matthew 10:28)**, but He would rather do something else. God would rather **make all Grace**

abound¹ toward you.

The word translated "**abound**" is a Greek word which actually means **to superabound, to overflow, to be in excess**. Our God loves to save. He loves to empower. He loves to bless. God **makes all Grace overflow in the lives of those who surrender to Him**.

God's **superabounding Grace** saves us from all our sins. The Scripture tells us:

Ephesians 1:6-7 {God} hath made us accepted in the beloved {Son, Jesus Christ}. {7} In whom {Christ} we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

According to the RICHES OF HIS GRACE. The Father makes **all grace superabound to us** when we come unto Him calling upon the Name of Jesus. We who have believed on Jesus **HAVE REDEMPTION**. It is our heritage. We are redeemed, and keep on being redeemed **through Christ's Blood**. We have forgiveness, and keep on having forgiveness, **through His superabounding Grace**. Those who call upon the Name of Jesus are, according to the Scripture, **saved to the uttermost**:

¹ G4052, περισσεύω, perisseuō, (pronounced) *per-is-syoo'-o*, From G4053; to *superabound* (in quantity or quality), *be in excess, be superfluous*; also (transitively) to *cause to superabound or excel*: - (make, more) *abound, (have, have more) abundance, (be more) abundant, be the better, enough and to spare, exceed, excel, increase, be left, redound, remain (over and above)*.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore **he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him**, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Superabounding Grace does not just save the believer, but *keeps on saving the believer* - for we have a Mediator Who forever **makes intercession (prayer) to God for us**. God is not only able to save us, but **He is able to keep us from falling**.

The Scripture tells us:

2 Timothy 1:12 I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that **he is able to keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Who is able to keep me? **God is able to keep me**. God is able to **keep me from temptation (Hebrews 2:18)**. **God is able**

Jude 24-25 **to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, {25} To the only wise God our Savior ...**

The Christian does not hold the Christian up. The Christian holds on to God, Who in turn holds the Christian up. The Scripture says:

Romans 14:4 ... **he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand**.

It is God at work in the life of the converted believer that keeps him and drives him toward Heaven. God's power works within the believer. If you have believed in Christ for salvation and have called upon His Name the superabounding Grace of God has made you alive.

Ephesians 2:5-7 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by (grace ye are saved;) {6} And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: {7} That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:20 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,

God is at work in the believer. He is at work in you, if you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Dear friends,

Adam in free will took fruit from the *forbidden tree*, and brought death on himself and on his children. God calls to you to, of your own free will, to take fruit from the *superabounding tree of Calvary*. When you call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, believing that He bore your sin on the Cross of Calvary, then God begins to pour out His Grace on you.

Apart from Christ you can do nothing (John 15:5).

With Christ you can do all things (Philippians 4:13). Put your faith in Christ, not in the idols of this world. Put your faith in God, not in your own abilities. **Our God always brings something out of nothing. He made Heaven and earth out of nothing. He made the stars, and hung them on nothing. He alone can take your life - which is nothing - and make something out of it.**

But you must turn to Him in faith. What is Faith? I have heard preachers break the word FAITH down this way:

Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him

You must forsake all. Turn from your way of doing things and, repenting, turn to God. Turn away from sin and idols, and turn to Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior. Forgiveness is available for everyone who believes, but dear friends, it is not automatic. **You must come unto God by Him** for salvation, and **you must abide in His Word - believing - if you expect to experience His superabounding Grace.** As Adrian Rogers once said:

"How do some Christians live in victory and other Christians not? All Christians have the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in them, but not all Christians are totally following Jesus as Lord. They have Him in their midst, but He's not out in front leading. The difference is not in possession; it is in

position...If you know you have the Lord, then the question is, are you following Him? Is He out in front leading you?"

If the Lord is leading you - and you are following Him, then you have His promise:

FOCAL 2 Corinthians 9:8 that ye, **always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:**

God is with you, and will not let you fall. **He is able and His grace superabounds!** May God touch your hearts with His Word.

