

07.21.2013 Empowering Grace

Acts 6:8 AMP Now Stephen, full of grace (divine blessing and favor) and power (strength and ability) worked great wonders and signs (miracles) among the people.

- (1) "Grace and power" are a winning combo.
- (2) How do we become full of grace and power?
- (3) According to Acts 6:3-5, Stephen was, "...**respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom.**"
- (4) Do grace and power precede signs and wonders?
- (5) There must be an understanding that these things are from The Lord or else we are striving to see things happen in our own strength.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to **make all grace abound to you**, that always having all **sufficiency in everything**, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

***God can make ALL grace abound to us...

- Grace in every area
- What areas does grace specifically apply to?

2 Corinthians 9:6 AMP [Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings.

7 Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving].

8 And **God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance (1)**, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].

9 As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He **gives (2)** to the poor; His **deeds of justice** and **goodness** and **kindness** and **benevolence** will go on and endure forever!

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].

11 Thus **you will be enriched in all things and in every way**, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will **bring forth thanksgiving to God (3)**.

- (1) All Grace abounds for all areas

(2) Grace motivates gifts and deeds

(3) The grace that He gives that activates us, will be returned in praise to God, not to us.

A few questions:

- Are our gifts and deeds motivated by grace or by personal discipline?
- What gifts or deeds in you need to be activated by grace?

For the kids:

- Jesus Storybook Bible, "Ten Ways ToBe Perfect" (pg. 100)
- Can we do all of the right things on our own???
- Movie option: Prince of Egypt