

## Abound 2 Peter 1:8

### I. Introduction:

1. **2, 3** People in many endeavors seek to just “slide by” in this world; seek to do the very minimum to get by. Unfortunately, with this attitude the minimum soon becomes the maximum.
2. Not so for Christians; the Bible says there are many things in which we are to “abound.”
3. The primary Greek word used in the NT for “abound” is *pleonazoo*: 1) to superabound, 2) to make to increase (Thayer). Let’s look at some things in which God tells us to abound.

### II. Discussion:

#### 1. **4** Hope: Rom. 15:13

- A. The apostles spoke of hope (Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:19; 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 Pet. 1:3).
- B. The Bible describes our “hope” as an “inheritance” (Eph. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3); “the hope of glory” “reserved in heaven” (Col. 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:4).
- C. **5** It is the “hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2; 3:7); but this hope is conditional:
  - (1) It springs from the “righteousness by faith” (Gal. 5:5; Heb. 10:38-39).
  - (2) Studying God’s word (Rom. 15:4).
  - (3) Perseverance in the face of trials (Rom. 5:1-5; 8:24-25).
  - (4) Continued faithfulness (Col. 1:21-23).
- D. Our hope is so very critical! Heb. 6:19; 1 Cor. 15:19 (“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” Martin Luther King, Jr.)

#### 2. **6** Sufferings of Christ: 2 Cor. 1:5

- A. Christians are called upon to suffer for the cause of Christ (1 Pet. 4:12-14a; 2 Tim. 3:12).
- B. Men hate the truth, thus they hate anyone who preaches/practices the truth (Jn. 3:18-21); can even be true of brethren (Gal. 4:16).
- C. Thus, we should not shy away from suffering for the cause of Christ nor consider it a strange thing (1 Pet. 4:12); we’ve got to be up to the task (2 Cor. 2:15-16).
- D. When we accept and handle such mistreatment correctly it strengthens us and places us in elite company (Matt. 5:10-12; 43-48).

#### 3. **7** Thanksgiving For God’s Grace: 2 Cor. 4:15

- A. The “giving of thanks” should characterize the Christian’s speech (Eph. 5:4) and prayers (Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1).
- B. But we need to especially abound in thanksgiving for God’s grace; we need to meditate upon where we would be without God’s grace (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
- C. Think how horrible it will if you’re lost! Matt. 25:41; Mk. 9:42-49; Rev. 14:11
- D. And, even though we’ve miserably failed God, He still sheds His abundant grace on us! Rom. 5:8; Eph. 1:3-11

#### 4. **8** Giving of Our Means: 2 Cor. 8:7

- A. Again, this is something we can easily take so very lightly, but our giving is serious, because what it supports is serious! 1 Cor. 16:1; Phil. 4:10, 14-16
- B. There are so many important ways to describe our giving:

9

“you must do also” (1 Cor. 16:1)  
“each one” (1 Cor. 16:2)  
“as he may prosper” (1 Cor. 16:2)  
“liberality” (2 Cor. 8:3)  
“according to their ability” (2 Cor. 8:3)  
“freely willing” (2 Cor. 8:3)  
“this grace” (2 Cor. 8:7)  
“according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have” (2 Cor. 8:12)  
“willingness” (2 Cor. 9:1)  
“generous...generosity” (2 Cor. 9:5)

10 “sow bountifully” (2 Cor. 9:6)  
“as he purposes in his heart” (2 Cor. 9:7)  
“not grudgingly” (2 Cor. 9:7)  
“not...of necessity” (2 Cor. 9:7)  
“liberality” (2 Cor. 9:11)  
“service” (2 Cor. 9:12)  
“is abounding through many thanksgivings to God” (2 Cor. 9:12)  
“liberal sharing” (2 Cor. 9:13)  
“exceeding grace of God in you” (2 Cor. 9:14)

C. 11 Our liberality in “giving” is not limited to our obligation toward the local church on the Lord’s Day (Matt. 25:31-46; Gal. 6:10).

**\*\***“If you haven’t any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.” Bob Hope (cf. 1 Jn. 3:17)

**\*\***“True charity is the desire to be useful to others with no thought of recompense.” Emanuel Swedenborg (cf. Acts 20:35)

5. 12 Every Good Work: 2 Cor. 9:6-8

- A. Christians are to be people characterized by “good works” (Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8, 14).
- B. These works are not things we “dream up”; but are designated by God (Eph. 2:8-10; Matt. 7:21-23).
- C. This is an important aspect of our regular assembling together (Heb. 10:24-25).
- D. Our good works are so important! Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 2:11-12; 2 Cor. 3:2 (**\*\***“Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” Francis of Assisi)

6. 13 In Love: Phil. 1:9

- A. It is easy to claim to “love,” but quite another thing to really do it! 1 Cor. 13:1-8
- B. But this type of “love” is not some mushy, syrupy, sentimentality; Phil. 1:9 says this love is to “abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.”
- C. It is also a “love” that is extended even to the unlovable (Jn. 3:16; Matt. 5:43-48; Matt. 16:26).

7. 14 In Love To One Another: 1 Thess. 3:12

- A. We’ve already talked about love in a more general way in the previous point.
- B. But, this is talking about ‘brotherly love’ a prominent theme in the New Testament:

15

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn. 13:34-35)  
“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (Jn. 15:12)

“These things I command you, that you love one another.” (Jn. 15:17)

16 “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another” (Rom. 12:10)  
“through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13)

*“bearing with one another in love” (Eph. 4:2)*

*“having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (Phil. 2:2)*

*“concerning brotherly love you have no need that I write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another” (1 Thess. 4:9)*

*“the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other” (2 Thess. 1:3)*

*17 “in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (1 Pet. 1:22)*

*“all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, courteous” (1 Pet. 3:8)*

*“above all things have a fervent love for one another” (1 Pet. 4:8)*

C. There’s a full dozen references and we haven’t even touched in the epistles of John! There are at least another 15-16 references concerning this type of love in these letters (read at home).

8. **18** In Our Walk To Please God: 1 Thess. 4:1

- A. So many seem to walk as close as possible to the edge of the cliff without falling over (min becomes max!).
- B. God forbid! We need to “*abound*” in our walk with God! Cf. Eph. 4:1
- C. Abandon worldly walk and walk God’s way (Phil. 1:27; 3:17-20).
- D. Doing so requires a new “mind set” (Col. 3:1-2).

9. **19** The Work of the Lord: 1 Cor. 15:58

- A. Every generation needs the gospel (1 Tim. 2:4; Rom. 1:16-17), thus, great commission valid in every generation (Mk. 16:15; 1 Cor. 9:16).
- B. What a privilege to “*God’s fellow worker*” (1 Cor. 3:5-11); Limit of responsibility and definition of success: “*plant*” and “*water*” (Lk. 8:4-15); it is God who gives “*the increase*”; only one foundation: “*Jesus Christ*.”
- C. In order for this church to grow and prosper spiritually every member has to do his/her part (Eph. 4:16).

10. **20** The Seven Christian Graces: 2 Pet. 1:3-11

- A. **21** Why, in verse 5 did Peter say this growth is so important? Review vv. 3-4
- B. V. 5: “*giving all diligence*” means “to bring in besides, to contribute besides” (Thayer).
- C. Thus, God’s grace provides us with great gifts (vv. 3-4), but we have to “bring in something beside God’s grace to be perfected—the so-called seven Christian graces.
- D. **\*\*** To perfect these “graces” requires us to “*be even more diligent*” (v. 10), but the wonderful results are guaranteed! “*...for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” (vv. 10b-11)

III. **Conclusion:**

- 1. **22** Are you abounding in all these things?
- 2. If you want to have an abundant life you need to focus on these things; you’ll not be disappointed! 2 Pet. 1:10-11
- 3. Invitation