

Visible Grace

"God always **makes his grace visible** in Christ, who includes us as partners of his endless triumph. Through our **yielded lives** he spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go. **15 We have become the unmistakable aroma of the victory** of the Anointed One to God—a perfume of life to those being saved and the odor of death to those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:14-15, TPT)

God always makes his grace visible

"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." (2 Corinthians 9:8, KJV)

abound toward you – a compound Greek word made up of these parts:
to *superabound*; + all, every + grace

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may **have life and have it abundantly**." (John 10:10, ESV)

- AMP "I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)." (*Zoe = absolute fullness of life*)
- **abundantly** = exceeding the need, over and above, more than is necessary, superabundant, more remarkable, more excellence, excessive, extraordinary, beyond measure!

"Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have **no lack!** The young lions suffer want and hunger; but **those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**" (Psalms 34:9-10, ESV)

"The Kingdom that Jesus preached and lived was all about a glorious, uproarious, absurd generosity."

N. T. Wright, Luke for Everyone p. 73

We are blessed for more than having more.

There is an eternal purpose for grace abounding to you.

80% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 per day

The greatest harvest in life is not monetary

You can serve God and have money, but you can't serve money and have the aroma of victory in your life!

Gauge your prosperity by how you are giving rather than how much you are receiving.

Generosity is giving freedom to the Spirit of God within you to express His love for people — to MAKE GRACE VISIBLE

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE, IT'S VISIBLE GRACE:

And Laban said to him, "Please *stay*, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake." (Genesis 30:27, NKJV)

"The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master." (Genesis 39:2, ESV)

"His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands." (Genesis 39:3, ESV)

"Why don't your kids get sick like mine?"

Yielded Lives — "Through our yielded lives he spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go."

What happens in a person when ETERNITY is the FOCUS?

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who **richly provides us with everything to enjoy**. They are to do good, to **be rich in good works**, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a **good foundation for the future**, so that they may take hold of that which is **truly life**." (1 Timothy 6:17-19, ESV)

"and he died for all, that those who live might **no longer live for themselves but for him** who for their sake died and was raised." (2 Corinthians 5:15, ESV)

"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.] 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."
(2 Corinthians 9:10-11, AMPC)

"As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever! [Ps. 112:9.]
(2 Corinthians 9: 9, AMPC)

"Unless God begins to move in my heart - and my wallet, my schedule and my to do list - I'll never receive His best for me."

Chip Ingram, Genius of Generosity, p. 58

In the light of eternity, what difference will it make?

Think the long game . . . LIVE WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW

"God . . . includes us as partners" in the Harvest

"Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of him who sent me** and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see **that the fields are white for harvest.**" (John 4:34-35, ESV)

"Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together." (John 4:36, ESV)

What are you taking to heaven with you, other than you?

You can make an eternal difference in the lives of those around you.

What do you value most?

"Absurd Generosity" puts the bounty of heaven on a collision course with the desperate needs of the people we meet.

Start where you are with what you have.

Don't let what you *can't do* stop you from doing what you *can do*.

One day the only thing that will matter will be what you sowed into eternity . . .

