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## OVERFLOWING; ABUNDANT

As a couple, they were known for welcoming many into their home. Entertaining a large group of people had become second nature. But such wasn't always the case. At first there was the constant fear that the menu that had been planned wouldn't be adequate to amply serve all the invited guests. However that fear ebbed away as they made the decision to always have more than enough; and abundance. If there were "leftovers", they could be shared with others, not a problem.



Not to equate the abundance as noted above as being on par with how blessed we are from God, but simply using it as a backdrop. For truly God has an abundance, that He is more than willing to share. He is generous beyond what words can fully describe. Even still Paul, tried as seen in Ephesians 3:20-21. *"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."* In chapter one and verse three of Ephesians we are reminded that God *"blessed us with every spiritual blessing."*

James notes, *"Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."* (1:17) In conjunction with this is what is seen in 1Thessalonians 5:18, *"in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* When was the last time you stopped long enough to think about all the ways in which God has abundantly blessed you?

In Matthew the fourteenth chapter, Jesus leaves a powerful example of thankfulness for daily food, and the need to express gratitude to the Father. Throughout the pages of the Scriptures one realizes that God has so richly provided for us physically. The wherewithal

to be able to work and provide, it as well is a gift from God, which is something Solomon addresses in Ecclesiastes. Be thankful for the small things in life. The beauty of a flower. The flight of a hummingbird. The sound of rain on the roof. Reasons to be thankful abound and that due to the abundance of overflowing blessings emanating from our heavenly Father.

It is kind of interesting the way Paul begins to draw to a conclusion in his first letter to Timothy. *"But godliness is actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content."* (6:6-8) Paul tied together the spiritual and the physical with the subtle reminder to be thankful for both and the recognition of the abundance provided thereof.

Out of the abundance of God's surpassing love, those who have obeyed the gospel are called *"children of God"* (1John 3:1) His grace provides amply as Paul notes in 2Corinthians 9:8. *"And God is able to make all grace to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed."* There is always more than enough when God is our source, *"but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1Corinthians 15:57)

An attitude of gratitude should be part and parcel for the child of God. Never taking all that God has provided for granted. *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."* (Colossians 3:15)

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made to God."* (Philippians 4:6)

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