

## Expose 43 K7

### Is God's Blessing Proportional To Your Offering?

Hello viewers this is Expose 247 and we are happy to connect with our viewers. Those who have like this page, those who have subscribed, those who are expectant and expecting what the Lord is going to feed us with today. And some people that are just joining us today if you are wondering what is this all about. If you are just joining today. We just want to tell you this is the place where we reason with the scripture and we show Christ from the pages of the Bible that Christ is lord.

From way back to Expose One where we were talking about the Testator is dead, to the time we started with the prodigal father series, we are showing that Christ is Lord, showing all the relationship between the younger son and showing the supremacy that no matter which angle you are, you just know Christ is lord.

And we moved from there to Knock Out series, and here we are showing that no matter the traditions, no matter what you hear and that you subscribed to, Christ must be placed in the center of it all.

So for the past six episodes we've been doing knock out, and you know the basis for that is Colossians 2 verse 8. And so last week we were on giving and I remember stopping you when you were about going to 2Corinthians 9 verse 8. I knew that there wasn't time to explore that verse. We wouldn't have much time to do that.

So today we want to continue from where we stopped. We stopped at verse seven.

Viewers all over the world, thank you for joining us today again for another series of knock out. It is knock out series seven today.

Now if you've been with us for the past... since last weekend when we began to explore the whole notion of giving, and what we are knocking out on this series is the notion that simply states that **do you get blessed by God when you give? Do you need to give for God to bless you?** That is the notion that we are knocking out.

And don't forget the vision we have for this series is just to make sure that we don't allow the traditions of men, the philosophies of men to deprive us of the benefits we have in Christ Jesus. Because the Bible simply says in Colossian 2: 8 as she stated that if we actually follow men's traditions and things that do not after the grace of God, what happens is we can be deprived.

In fact Colossians 2:8 uses the word, **let no man spoil you** and the word **spoil** actually we said is what happens when people go to battle and one particular party takes all the benefits of the other party all the way. And the Bible says we can be spoiled by men. Men can deprive us of the benefits of Redemption if we listen to men philosophies and traditions. And that is the vision behind that.

And you see one of the traditions we are actually knocking out in this series is the one that simply says that **do you need to give in order for God to bless you?** And we've actually gone through two different series last week. We've gone through the first one that simply says does your pastor actually earn the right to actually call for an offering? And secondly we are on to stop giving pointlessly. And today we are moving on from there.

Now if you join us on the last weekend, last Sunday. We actually stopped at 2Corinthians Chapter 9 verse 7. And that is where we stopped and am going to read on from that verse seven and we'll see what the Lord will have us to learn today.

Now I want you to open your mind to what we are looking at today. Don't forget the Bible says in the book of James he said **receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your soul(James 1:21)**. So I will say you should humbly accept the reality of God's Word as we actually break down into his revelation

**2Cor 9:7** says

**Everyman according as he hath purposed in his heart, let him give, and not grudgingly or of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver.**

Right there we did say that contrary to what you might have heard people says, the apostolic focus on giving is not about the volume of what is giving is about the fact that... He said let every man purpose, let every man decide in his heart what he want to give.

Now the last thing he says for God loves a cheerful giver. Now it seems then what this is simply saying is God is much more concern about the disposition in giving rather than what is giving.

I will say that again, God is much more concern about the disposition of our heart in giving rather than what we give. And this is the reason, he says God loves a cheerful giver.

Now don't forget cheerfulness in this same place, I told you in the last episode, that the Greek word that was translated cheerfulness in this place is the same Greek word that gave birth to the English word hilarious.

You know hilarious, s in hilarious giver, a giver that is so joyful in giving. And you see the word joyfulness comes to heart in this particular verse.

You see people talk about the fact that happiness and joyfulness are two different things. People says well happiness depend on circumstances and joyfulness doesn't depend on anything. Well, I beg to differ. That is not the truth according to the scriptures.

You see anytime the Bible use the word joyfulness, is always use with connection with a certain understanding that somebody has. For example in Luke chapter 10 when the Bible talks about Jesus being joyful. The Bible says Jesus was joyful in the spirit. The Bible says in that same hour, Jesus rejoice in the Holy Ghost that is Luke Chapter 10. He said thank you father for you have not reveal these things to the prudent and to the wise, you have revealed it to babes and suckling (Luke 10:21). It means the reason why He rejoices in the spirit was because Jesus said these people knew something.

You see rejoicing and joy in the spirit is because you are persuaded of one thing or the other. It has a basis. The only difference between rejoicing and happiness is simply because is not based on something external in the senses, but is always based on something that you know.

Now for examples the Bible talks about in Philippians Chapter 4 talks about rejoicing as well if you notice where the apostle Paul simply says rejoice, again I say what? Rejoice. If you notice in that Philippians 4, if you go down three, four verses downward in that same Chapter 4. He said whatever things are of noble, whatever things are of good report, whatever things are pure, he said think upon these things (Philippians 4:8). So the Apostle Paul was connecting there joyfulness in Philippians 4 on the basis of what they are thinking about. What am simply trying to say according to the Word of God joyfulness and rejoicing always has a basis, there is always a foundation to be joyful.

So please I will like to stop a bit. And I want to encourage our viewers maybe they are watching from any of our pages and is blurr or dark or something. I want to say you should move in to the Expose 247 page so you might get a better view.

And I remember on that seventh, the last time we talked about. Even some times they make the people to say you must come out in the emotions of joy even when they know that they have actually putting pressure on the people and know that the people are almost crying and weeping to give this offering, But they must say all in the name to tick the box, come up with joy, you must be a joyful giver.

Now you said something very important. You know some ministers when they pressure people to give by the time they do that. They would then tell them Bible says God loves a cheerful giver. So they'll tell you come forward and be joyful as you are giving. Despite that there was a pressure on them.

That is not the whole point. The whole point is the only reason somebody can be joyful is because they have a certain level of understanding that might be beyond the senses.

That is the reason why you will notice like I said, I was trying to quote the verse in the scriptures that always show anytime the Bible talks about joyfulness and rejoicing is always connected to something the person who is being joyful knows. Other people might not know what the person knows, but the person knows something and that is why the person is rejoicing. That is why the Bible talks about rejoicing in the Holy Ghost. In fact there is verse in the Old Testament that the Bible says with joy you will draw water from the well of salvation. It says when you draw water from the well of salvation, joy will break forth in your spirit. It means every time joyfulness is mentioned in the scripture is connected to something that somebody knows that others might not know.

The Bible says in this 2Corinthians 9:7 that when you give, it will come with a spiritual emotion of joy why? Don't forget we read 2Corinthians 8:9 that simply says that you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that even though he was rich for your sake he became poor so that you through his poverty might be rich. And we said last time that the reason you are rich, the reason you have all you need for life and godliness is completely connected to the fact that Jesus became poor so that you can be rich. It has nothing to do with your giving.

So by the time you are giving and you have the understanding that you have been made rich because of the poverty of Christ, emotions of joy will break forth in your spirit. The Bible says God loves a cheerful giver it means you are giving with the full understanding of what you have, not what you will have.

Again I say that, you are not giving because you think you will have when you give. But the reason why you break forth in joy is because you know you are drawing something out of the well of salvation. Joy always come with that understanding. So the only reason why this particular giver is joyful is because he is giving because he knows what he has, not what he will have. He knows what he has already.

So nobody is pressurizing you again, pressurizing you to give and pressurizing you to come up with joy.

*Now you have pressure, pressure come in both places...*

Now you don't pressure someone to come up... in fact the only time we notice in Philippians 4 where the Apostle Paul talks about rejoice and I say rejoice. If you notice like I said he told them whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report think upon these things. Is simply saying if your thinking, if your imagination lines up with the state of your spirit, joy will break forth.

The reason why some Christians are depressed, in fact the reason why some people are undergoing so much negative emotions is because our thinking is not in line with the reality of what Christ did in us and for us. That is why he simply says think upon these things. Philippians 4 before he talks about rejoice and I say again rejoice.

So what we are simply saying is this, it takes a giver who knows what he has, who knows his status and his positions in Christ Jesus to break forth into joy when giving. People who are actually giving because they want God to bless them, they have no basis for being joyful.

In fact when you are sowing in the Old Covenant, it talks about... he said those that sows with tears...you see, when you are sowing and giving in hope that God will bless you back, you would do it with tears, with remorse hoping that God will have mercy upon your soul to bless you back.

But for those that give understanding the fact that they are fully blessed of God. Those that give understanding the fact that they are loaded with God's blessing, when they give it evokes joyful emotions in their spirit. And so we know for somebody to break forth into cheerfulness when giving, for somebody to be hilarious when he is giving, he knows something about what he has. And that is what you need to know then,

Now 2Corinthians 9:8 let's see what he has to say,

So if you are not really sowing so you will never be in tears we can see from that.

That is why you notice that some ministers will tell you even it doesn't matter whether you are tearful, it doesn't matter whether you feel as if you have been ripped off, just make sure you give. That is not scriptural. That is not God's word.

Now look at 2Corinthians 9:8

This is where we are going to dwell a lot today and we trust the Lord to give us revelation in all things.

Look at 2Corinthians 9:8. He says

**And God is able to make all grace abound towards you.**

Now this is a fact. He says by the time you give in 2Corinthians 9:7, he said there is an ability in God to do something towards you. He said God, I repeat is able to make all grace abound towards you.

Now the big questions you want to ask viewers is what grace is he talking about? If you were with us last week, we talked about 2Corinthians 8:9.

Now watch this!

I will slow down to explain this. He says

**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus.**

This grace is not your grace. It is not my grace. It is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the grace of our Lord Jesus. John Chapter One tells us that the law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17). This grace is of the Lord Jesus. He doesn't belong any man.

Now he now said something about this grace. He said God is able to make this grace abound towards you. Before we go into the phrase **abound towards you**. Let's talk about this grace.

Now 2Corinthians 8:9 says **for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus...** and now let's see, what grace is that? Let's understand what this grace is all about. He said

**you know the grace of our Lord Jesus that even though he was rich**

He had everything, he was God all by himself, he didn't need anything. And he said

Yet for our sake he became poor.

Now watch that!

Now please let's break it down. **What is the grace of our Lord Jesus?**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus is a rich person, somebody who is so rich willing to release all because of our sake.** I repeat that, because the Bible is saying... anything we talk about grace, we always say grace is unmerited favour. It is right. It is a favour that you do to someone you don't deserve. But the person giving the grace.

Listen the Bible says you know the grace of our Lord Jesus.

Now let's slow down so we can get this,

He said **for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus** 2Corinthians8:9 what is that grace? It then goes on to tell us what that grace is, he said that you know that he was

rich yet for your sakes, he became poor. So by definition the grace of our Lord Jesus is the grace that made him who is rich to lose all for our sake.

Now 2Corinthians 9:8 is then saying that by the time you give in verse seven, 2Corinthians 9: 8 says **God will make the same grace abound towards you**, the same grace that was at work in Christ that made a person that knew that he was rich, it means then Christ knew he was rich. Christ knew that he had everything with the Father before he came down to us.

He said **you also that grace can abound in you**. Which means you also must know that you are rich as well. **Now that you also are rich that before you gave you were rich.**

I repeat again, **this grace is not our grace, is the grace of our Lord Jesus. But 2Corinthians 9:8 says God can make that grace abound in you. The same grace that was in Christ that made he that was rich lose all so that he can actually blessed us. He said the same grace can be abounding towards you that you also knowing that you are rich.**

Now that is the word! That is the word!! Most people who give, most people who do giving in places of worship don't have this revelation. He said what giving should do to you it should make the grace abound towards you.

Now if you were in doubt if Christ knew he was rich. Let me clarify this for you. When Christ was on the earth. In his flesh, when he walk on the planet. In fact there was a time when he actually went to his disciples and Jesus was actually cleaning their feet. Jesus said something and it could be of interest to you. Jesus said you called me master, and yes you are right because that is who I am (John 13:13). I know who am I. Jesus knows who he was. Jesus was in no doubt about his identity. And that is why people talks about humility these days. And I think what people call humility is no humility. Because to really be humble, you have to have a good sense of your identity.

In what most people call humility today are people who don't even know who they are. And people are just trampling down on them.

True humility comes from you knowing that you are master, you know who you are but for the sake of the kingdom you lay it down. That is why Jesus Christ said nobody takes this life from me, I got the power but I lay it down. So Jesus knew who he was, he knew he was rich. He knew he was master over all. He knew he was king of the heavens and the earth. Jesus knew who He was, but the Bible says he that knew who he was lost everything, gave up everything so that we can be blessed.

Now listen, 2Corinthians 9:8 says God is able to make the same grace be released in your life. What grace is that? The same grace that makes you know yourself that you also are rich, that you also are blessed. That you also are loaded, but for the sake of the kingdom, you are also are willingly to blessed the brethren.

Now you see this actually come against the psychology that most Ministers on the pulpit teach about giving. Most people teach giving from the perspective that when you give then you will be made rich or when you give you'll be blessed. That is not the grace of our Lord Jesus.

Jesus did not become poor so that he can become rich in the first place. Bible says He was rich in the first place, then he became poor so that we can become rich. So if you know the grace of our Lord Jesus, if you express the grace of our Lord Jesus in your life, you too also must start from the foundation that you also know that you are rich, that God has blessed you, that you have sufficiency and that out of that you are blessing others. That is the correct foundation of giving. If you don't give that way, it means the grace has not abounded towards you. So 2Corinthians 9:8 says God is able to make all grace abound towards you.

Now we have done a good definition of what that grace is all about. If that grace is at work in your life, you'll give the same way Christ gave.

And you see that is the reason why if you were with us in the last episode, we made a particular point known last episode.

We simply said when the Apostle Paul will bring the apostolic instruction to the Corinthians church about giving, Paul started this treatise on giving by saying to them that you know the grace of our Lord Jesus. And I submit to you people should not be allowed to give in the body of Christ unless they know the grace of our Lord Jesus because if people give without understanding the grace of our Lord Jesus, they can slide all the way from 2Corinthians 8:9 and slide all the way down to Malachi 3:10

So the Bible simply says that what happen when we give is that God is able to make all grace abounds towards us. And we've clarified what that grace is all about. Is the grace that makes you know that you are rich and out of your richness you are able to bless other and bless the body of Christ. And that is what he says in 2Corinthians Chapter 9 verse 8 that God is able to make all grace abounds towards you.

So I think we are no more in dark what that grace is all about. As long as we study Jesus who carried the grace, what did Jesus do with the grace? The Bible says we would do the same with that same grace in our lives.



Now if we carry on then 2Corinthians 9 verse 8

And if you wonder that if you will think that, that knowledge of that grace is not important. You know, it is very important because that word separates the one who gives to people (from those people who already know that) and people who give out of the abundance of what they have. It is the knowledge of that grace. Because if you don't have knowledge, if you don't have that grace abound towards you in the form of a packet of knowledge then you will be spoiled. Because you will be thinking that the pressure can work on you. You will be pushed in a way that lets me give so that I can get. But if you have this grace abound in you, you know you are rich, and that out of your richness you are a blessing. And you know that shapes everything, and it redefines your life. It is a different paradigm completely. And gives you a different experience, puts you on a different pedestal from other people because you already know that you are rich.

So imagine you already know that you are rich then you cannot be merchandized by other people to say give. How can somebody tell you to give so that you can be rich? when you tell them that (already there is a grace inside of me) I gave out of the grace of our Lord Jesus. And that grace of our Lord Jesus is the grace that knows that he is rich yet he became poor so that others can be rich. So how can you then give to be rich when you are supposed to give because you are rich?

And that is the paradigm shift that a lot of people have to undergo if they will not miss out on the goodness of God in their life

Now listen one thing we are going to look at again is, there is something you talk about and I think we need to clarify that a bit more.

Now you see, there is nothing in the kingdom of God, there is virtually nothing. There was a time I thought about this, I meditated on this for quite a long time that is there anything in the kingdom of God that the devil, that the system of this world, that the human carnality that flesh cannot imitate? There is virtually almost nothing in the kingdom of God that Satan has no counterfeit.

It reminds us of what happened to Moses when he was with Pharaoh, when God asked Moses to demonstrate to Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go. Have you noticed that when Moses threw down the rod and it became a serpent, James and Jambres those magicians of the Egyptian actually threw down their rod and it became also a serpent. And I submit to you in the body of Christ today, in God's kingdom today there are so many counterfeit of spiritual revelation. So many counterfeit of kingdom principles.

For examples when we talk about giving you know in this place, in this 2Corinthians, in the New testament, the Bible talks about giving out of the grace of God, giving out of the revelation of God's grace. It means then so many people, so many places of worship are giving out of a different understanding. It means it is counterfeited, it can be counterfeited, you can give out of numerous reasons and motivations apart from giving from the grace of God.

And that is why the Bible talks about the blessing of the Lord (Can you see that?) that makes rich without adding sorrow. So I submit to you then, it means there are some thing that can make rich and add sorrow. So it means the enemy of our soul can counterfeit anything of the kingdom.

The Bible says in 2Corinthians 11:14 he said **little marvel that Satan has appear like an angel of light**. So the reality of what we are teaching today is giving can be done from a different foundation all together. But the Bible says the giving that makes you abound is the giving that is done out of the revelation of God's grace.

And I think before we go back to 2Corinthians 9:8. You see we made mentioned of 1Corinthians 13 you know the Apostle Paul talked about the fact that even if I give all my goods to the poor.

Now listen to that! People talk about, some people can say well what are we talking about does it matter what motivation it is as long as you give God will bless you. Now I think if you ever think that way, you've not read the scripture well enough. If you are think that way.

Now let's clarify this. 1Corinthian 13 simply says, Paul said this if I give, now he didn't say my goods. You can go and read it, Paul said if I give **all** of my goods which means Paul says hundred percent and am sure if you are listening to this episode today that you have given hundred percent of everything you have.

Paul said let's look at the worst case scenario. If I give all of my goods to the poor. 1Corinthians 13... and I have not love. If it doesn't come from the foundation of God's love, Paul said it profits me nothing. Oh! It means then, Paul said there is no profit. It doesn't make me to abound. There is no profit in giving all my goods to the poor if is not done from the revelation of God's love.

Now it might profit the church, it might profit the man of God, it might profit somebody who got the thing from you, but the Bible says it doesn't profit you if is not done from the foundation of God's love.

And then we can see from the concluding part of verse seven he was saying God loves a cheerful giver, meaning there are others that could be many... (oh yeah) me a thousand and one type of givers. So God actually says I love the cheerful giver.

And from where we started from last week, we are talking about (1Corinthians) the basis, the foundation of our giving must be from grace. And again is commending us to that grace that this same grace is able to abounding in us and then with that we'll be able to bring forth.

We just have to have this grace, stressing this grace again. You know we started that you should not listen to anybody, nobody has anything to say to you until he first of all established, or standing on the podium of God's grace when he want to talk about giving.

And then after you have heard this, just like we saw in verse eight, that this grace must have been resident in you, from then you can just bring out (abound) because you already know... when you have that grace inside of you then when you give you know are giving to bless the brethren because you are blessed already. You are giving because you are rich. That is the grace of our Lord Jesus. A giving that understands giving that he is already rich.

And if you give from any other platform maybe the law and you are seeing results just like you reminded us of Moses experience ( in the Old Testament) and the fact that there was results. We saw the serpent when they did it, the magicians they brought down serpent too just like Moses. But we know that his own swallow each other... the fact that the other platform are giving results is not enough... the standard of God remains the same and this is borne out of grace.

And I think what you said, you see, I think that is one thing the body of Christ needs to understand in the twenty first century we are so focused on results that we have forgotten the fact that the foundation of things are as critical as the results according to the way God sees it.

A.W Tozer wrote a book and he title the book "The Roots of the righteous." You might get the book on Amazon or somewhere you might read. Is a good book. Is a great book. It will bless your soul. The Roots of the Righteous.

The book says the main difference between our generation of spirituality compare to the old generation. Our own generation was much more concern with the fruits. But he said back in the old generation of believers, they were much more concern in the foundation. Because if the roots is right, the fruit would be right, but if you are so much focused on the fruits you might miss the root.

Now why did we say that you see the example you gave in the Old Testament. You know there was time that they asked God for something I mean for meat and the Bible says God send them meat and he sent leanness to their soul. Can you see that? It means even though they got the results, but spiritually the grace in them just began to shrivel.

And that is what you need to understand, in this place is simply saying if you want to give in such a way that God will make grace to abound towards you. Your giving must be on the foundation of grace. If you give by any other reasons, if you give out of necessity, if you give out of grudginess, if you give under pressure, what happens is even though you give, it might rubbish whatever they got from you.

And you might see instant results just like the Magicians snake.. you know swallow up.

What happen is the grace of Christ that should have multiply in you, the Bible talks about peace and grace being multiply. You see the grace of God that should have multiplied doesn't multiply because you gave on a different platform. That is the reason why Paul actually declaring to the Corinthians brethren that God is able to make all grace abounds toward you.

Have you notice that before Paul made that declaration in verse 8 of 2Corinthians 9 see what it was in verse seven. See what he had to go through, see the understanding the Apostle Paul drag them through verse seven before he began to make that declaration in verse eight.

Now if you go on with that, now see what it says next.

Verse 8

**God is able to make all grace abound to you.**

Now look at the next... if you have the KJV version you will see after the semicolon, it says that **“you always have enough sufficiency in all things.”**

I will tell you how people interpret that.

Most people interprete that to mean when I give then I will have sufficiency in all things

Now what is simply saying if you look at it, if you read it in one line, is a single sentence.

It says **God make all grace abound towards you**, and don't forget what the grace is that we said. Is the grace of our Lord Jesus that knows that he is rich and yet for the sake of the kingdom became poor.

Now he says **if you have that grace abounding in you, you will know that you have sufficiency in all things**. You will know you are not deprived, you'll know you are not at a disadvantage, you'll know that you are not in lack, you'll...

That is... have you ever wonder the reason why the... when the 2Corinthians Chapter 8 started from verse One, verse two,

The Apostle Paul spoke about the Macedonian brethren. Even though naturally speaking they look like they've got nothing. He said out of their poverty they gave. And you see, what actually amazes us when we read 2Corinthians chapter 8 is, he said their giving abounded unto their cheerfulness. He said their giving abounded to their joy. Why would they give? You know the only reason why they give even though you would have thought they are naturally poor is because they knew they were loaded. That is it! How did I know they knew they were loaded? The Bible says their giving abounded unto their cheerfulness of their joy.

That is what he says in 2Corinthians Chapter 8 you can go and read it. It means then when they gave they had the understanding that they are sufficient in all things. They are not giving to have sufficiency in all things, they gave because they knew they were sufficient in all things. And that is what he was talking about.

**Having all sufficiency in all things may abound to what? To every good works.**

Now we have a further confirmation that the sufficient he was talking about, is the sufficiency you knew you already had even before you gave.

That is why he didn't say... because if Paul was simply saying that you having all sufficiency in all things to abound to every good work. If what it means is what we think it is where we think when I give God can make me sufficient in all things and then I can abound to every good work. The Corinthians brethren would have told Paul, then why are you asking us to give now? You can wait Mr Paul, wait for us by the time we give and by the time we then have enough sufficiency then later on we will give. And why are you asking us to give now? Why are you asking us to make collection?

But you see, that is not what Paul was saying. Paul was saying I know that if you understand the grace that is abounding towards you, you would know you have

sufficiency in all things. And now so straightway you can abound to every good work. You can start to distribute to the need of the saints.

Now one thing that we need to actually clarify a lot is this particular phrase **“having sufficiency in all things.”** Having sufficiency... how do we come to that revelation? And you see what we are talking about are things that if you know it will be very hard for any man to spoil you. Don't forget the revelation behind this Knock Out series is to make sure that we are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, so that we are not merchandized and manipulated out of the benefits of the Cross of Christ.

Now it says **having sufficiency in all things.** That is the word we are going to dwell on.

Now if you are dwell, if you have your Bible or whatever you have with you. We are going to go to Philippians Chapter 4. We will see how the Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit break down this phrase **having sufficiency in all things.** Having sufficiency in all things.

Philippians Chapter 4 let's see what the Lord will have to say to us there.

Now I am going to read...

You see now the Apostle Paul was actually talking about the Philippians brethren. The people of Philippi and you see Church in Philippi.

I'll read from Philippians Chapter 4 verse 9.

**“Those things which you have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”**

Okay, that is fine.

Now verse 10

**But I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me had flourished, again;**

Is talking about the Philippians church. Now let's watch this and let's see the revelation that the Holy Spirit we have us have in this particular verse.

He said

**...wherein you were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.**

Paul says I know your motivation you wanted to give, but there is no opportunity in the past.

Now look at verse eleven.

**“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**

**Not that I speak in respect of want.**

Now he said, Paul said well is not because am simply saying that am in need. That is not the reason why am actually going to give you this revelation at the moment.

Now **for I have learnt...** you know I've seen some, I have heard ministers and pastor telling people when they are taking offering, you see am not taking offering from you because I am in need, or something I just want you to be blessed. That is why am taking offering from you am. People say such things.

Well let's see... people quote Apostle Paul don't forget that 2Peter Chapter 3 talks about the writings of Paul, some men has taken it out of context to their own detriment. People kind of... they can quote Paul you know what Paul also said is not because I am in need, I want you to be blessed.

Let's see what Paul said. Watch this!

You know if you read Philippians Chapter 4 verse 11. He didn't say not that I speak in respect of want, I want you to be blessed. You know he didn't say that. That is what some Pastors end up saying.

The reason... they will say well you know what, am asking for offering not because we are not blessed. We have everything we need, but am asking you to give to the Lord so that God can blessed you. That's why am actually interested in wanting you to give. Well any way for them to ever say that they want you to give so that you can be blessed has even destroyed the whole foundation of grace anyway.

So let's see what Paul said after he made that statement.

Paul said the reason why am asking you to give is not because of my want. That is not the reason why am actually concern about your giving.

Now watch this viewers, he said

**For I have learnt in whatever state I am therefore to be content.**

Paul said my identity, who am I has got nothing to do with whether am in want or not. Now if you look at the next verse twelve. See what he says

**12. “I know bot how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”**

**I know both how to be abased and I know how to be abound.**

Well you see I am going to read. I mean if you actually read this particular Philippians Chapter 4 verse 11, from the KJV version. You might not probably get or appreciate some things there because of the old English that is being used.

Am going to read that Philippians Chapter 4 verse 11 very soon from the Living Translation so that we can actually get this particular revelation. But before I do that, am going to read verse 11 and 12 from KJV and am going to read from the Living Bible.

I want you to read please verse 12

And I know both how to be abased

ok

And I know how to abound

Okay

Everywhere

Ok

And in all things

Okay

I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry.

Okay

Both to abound

Ok

And to suffer need

Now okay

Now that is great

I am going to read from the Living Bible and am going to read the same verse 11, and 12.



Now let's see what it says from there.

Now

Philippians Chapter 4

Paul says verse 11, **he said not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little.**

So now we understand that when he talks about **abased** and **abound** he was talking about the fact that I've learnt whether I have so much in my bank balance, or whether I don't have so much in my bank balance, it doesn't change who I am.

Now you see, in this particular verse, the reason we are talking about this verse is that it affects both Ministers and those who listen us. And it effect how we understand the grace of giving so that we don't get merchandized.

Now listen when we talk about contentment, the apostolic revelation in this Philippians Chapter 4 verse 11 to 12 redefined the whole notions of contentment.

You know, when we talk about contentment, people quotes 1Timothy Chapter 6 where he says **godliness with contentment is great gain. (1Timothy 6:6)** And when people take contentment the picture we have in our mind is somebody who is just quite happy with little. Somebody who is actually going to say you know what, I don't want too much for life, I just...what I have now is fine, and there is no much aspiration, no need to get something more than I have. People talks about that as contentment. But that will run contrary to what the apostle Paul define as contentment in Philippians 4: 11-12

See what he says, he says **I have learnt whether I have much, or whether I have little.** Can you see that? Paul said whatever state I am, I have learnt to be content verse 11.

Now it goes further in verse twelve he say it doesn't matter what I have, whether is much or little.

Can you see that?

So it means he's simply saying even though he said he was contented in verse 11, so Apostle Paul was simply saying he has actually experience having so much and also having so little. But the fact is the goal is he said, he doesn't matter whichever state I am.

Now see what he says? Now please read on

### **13. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”**

Look on next verse...verse 13 please

“I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me

People quote this verse a lot. People say oh yeah I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me. But this particular verse was borne of the understanding that Paul had, that Paul said what determines who I am, what determines how I see myself is who I am in Christ. It has nothing to do with whether there is ten billion or there is one, whether there is only one pound or one dollars or whatever or ten thousand dollars in my account. Apostle Paul said I am what I am through Christ that strengthen me... my identity is not connected to the volume or the lack of what I don't have.

Now this is very critical in understanding giving. It means then, the whole foundation of what Paul was trying to make the Philippians understand is the fact that who you are, your value, you identity, your significance has nothing to do with your bank balance.

Now you see the church has always swing in between two extremes. There was a time it was quiet very fashionable if you have nothing. In fact if you have nothing it shows that you have sacrifice everything for God. And you are more piety. It mean you are holier. Back in the early 70s and 80s that was in vogue, it means unless you didn't have anything, unless you are actually poor, people don't believe you are actually serving God. And then it was a means of identity.

And very soon, it switch over as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century it switch over. And this time around, people say oh yes you must have had the spirit of Christ working in you, you are a man of faith, you are a man of excellent, and you are the epitome of glory if you have millions and millions and billions of dollars in your bank account. And you see again we attach our identity to having a lot.

So the same Church of Christ that actually attached his identity to lack back then is now attaching identity to lots more. And the problem is not whether there was a lot or a little. Paul said is not about a lot, is not about a little. He said it doesn't matter which one, he said what matter is how do you see your value? Paul said I can do all things ( I am all things ) through Christ that strengthens me. Now this was the apostolic teaching that Paul was going to actually talk about to people who were giving. Can you see that?

This is where we are talking about. When people give this is what they need to hear when they give. This is what people need to listen to when they are being taught about

giving. Apostle Paul is simply saying our identity is not in any way connected to the volume or the lack of volume of what we have in our bank balance.

And you see, don't forget one thing about this church for is very important that we understand this church. I mean let's look at verse 14.

This is important about this church.

**Notwithstanding you have well done, that you did communicate with my affliction.**

See verse 15

**Now you Philippians you know also that in the beginning of the gospel when I departed Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving.**

Paul said I have never come across a church that does so much giving and receiving as the Philippians brethren. And yet this same people the Apostle Paul is simply telling them that identity is in Christ. We can do all through Christ that strengthens us. Not we can do all things through how much was giving,

Now listen, if Paul says no other church communicated with him regarding giving and receiving as the Philippians Paul meant it.

Don't forget that Paul made reference to the Macedonia brethren and Paul said these people out of their poverty they gave. Now the Apostle Paul is then super-qualifying the Philippians church and saying no other church has done like you did.

And if Paul was going to teach about the more you give the more you are blessed. This is the perfect time for Paul to do it. This is Paul's opportunity to teach the church because these people nobody gave like them. Again I say it nobody gave as the Philippians brethren. How did I know that? Because Paul said it himself. Paul said no other church and don't forget those who in Achaia, those in Macedonia, go to 2Corinthians 8, 2Corinthian 9, Apostle Paul talked about other churches who were giving, but Paul said no one has ever still ever given as the Philippians brethren. It means this is the perfect opportunity of Paul to teach us about the fact that the more you give the more you are blessed but he never did it.

Because it didn't make sense.

He never did it because he already... in fact I don't want to use that word.

He never did it because he already said you can do all things through Christ that strengthens you. Can you see that? Paul connected it all down to Christ. Paul said you

can do all things by Christ that strengthens you. Do you know that you are blessed with all spiritual blessings available in Christ Jesus? Do you know that Christ who was rich became poor so that you can become rich? Do you know that you are sited with Christ in the heavenly places? Do you know that he that knew no sin was made sin so that you can become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus?

Paul was simply saying that people of Philippians you will only do all things through the revelation of Christ that works in you. How will Paul be saying that to people who are very very excellent in giving and receiving?

That is why I said watch how Paul approached this Philippians brethren.

Now see what it says

We just read verse 15.

Now verse 16

**For even in Thessalonica, you sent once and again unto my necessity.**

Now it means Paul was in Thessalonica, and don't forget we have the book of Thessalonians, there were Christian in Thessalonica. Even the Philippians church were still sending to him Thessalonica. Again I repeat this is Paul's perfect opportunity to teach about giving so that you can be blessed. And Paul never never did in this Chapter 4 of Philippians. This is amazing!

See what he says again

He said in verse 17

**Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruits that may abound**

Now again watch that word abound.

Now we know according to what we read in 2Corinthians chapter 9 verse 8 we know what the abounding is all about, he said God is able to make all grace...

We know what the abounding means, we are not in the dark about the abounding he is talking about here in Philippians Chapter 4 verse 17. It means he says God is able to make grace abound towards you. It means that you are giving because you know you are rich. That is the grace of our Lord Jesus. So Paul already clarify what this grace is all about in verse 17. He said not because I desire a gift but I desire fruits that may abound to your account.

Now look at verse 18

**But I have all and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.**

Now look at verse 19

One of our most popular scripture in the scripture.

Again viewers all over the world don't forget we have laid a foundation today. And I think the foundation we've laid is before we enter this Philippians 4. That the goal of giving is that you will do that after the revelation of grace of God.

This grace is Jesus's grace 2Corinthians 8:9 but he says God can make that grace abound towards you. And what is the grace? 2Corinthians 8:9 tells us what that grace is. Is the grace that made Jesus who was rich gave all, he became poor because of us. And the Bible says we can walk in the same grace knowing that we are also rich and we can also give all.

So it means is giving borne out of the revelation that you are rich.

Now see what it says in verse 19.

Again this is Paul's perfect opportunity to teach that when you give you will be blessed. But see what he says to the Philippians brethren in Philippians 4:19

**19. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**

He says

But my God shall supply all your needs according to how much you gave...No!

Now this is how some people read it

He said my God shall supply all your needs if you give in dollars, you will get in dollars. If you give your first fruits, if you make sure you actually convince God that you are a sacrificial giver, just actually make a demand on God, so that God too will say I have no choice but to give back hundred fold to this person.

In fact that is something we need to look at the hundred fold... (I don't think we can do that today) not today.

We are going to look at that, but you see if Apostle Paul is going to make a declaration about the Philippians brethren he said my God shall supply all your needs and we want to see according to what? In Accordance to what? Yes that is a question according to what? In accordance with what? On what basis? Because this is so

important, if you remember we actually busted or we knocked out a particular verse last episode, and if you didn't listen to that episode, please go and listen to it. The title is Stop Pointless Giving- Knock Out 6.

We knocked out 2Corinthians Chapter 8 verse 6 and 7 that people used to quote when they say **he that soweth sparingly reap sparingly**. We actually did justice by the Holy Spirit to that verse. And what we did say then was the Apostle Paul went on the next verse and say let every man do according to what he purpose in his heart.

Paul said who is talking about volume here? Who is talking about...? Because we said how people interpret sowing sparingly is about size, but Paul said No I am not talking about... Please go and listen to Knock 6 and stop pointless giving.

And then you know that is why to remind people that nobody has the right to tie you to any amount. Give this amount to... because that verse was telling according to what you purpose in your heart. You are the only decision maker in that giving. You are the only decision maker, so people calling out some sums for you and say this is really erroneous from what you saw.

And then even before that, Knock Out Series 5 was talking to say has your Pastor earn the right? because if the person does not have the foundation of grace, not coming from the knowledge of grace, he doesn't have any right in the New Testament setting to raise an offering. Because you must come, you know there is a lot to talk about, you have to come to Philippians and begin to talk about his grace. That is the foundation. So nobody has the right except they accept the work of grace and lay it bare for the viewers to know.

You are right! Can you see before Paul began to speak to Philippians about giving and receiving, he began to talk about the fact that I can do all things through Christ. Is all about Christ.

There is a lot of work in it, is not something you can hurry up. Is the work of grace, you lay it bare. And you have to go from where you know that through Christ. You have to lay the foundation that Christ has already because of your sake he became poor. So there is a lot to talk about it, a lot to say on it before you can even raise an offering.

And then when you are raising the offering- the points. You know we are talking about the points last week. There are some points to see, is it out (must not be borne out) of necessity, done grudgingly, must be with joy, there are also many points, the grace must be on it, and then with the full knowledge that you already have

sufficiency, you already have this grace before, you are not giving to get. You are giving because you already have, you've already gotten it.

And then you just don't have little, you have sufficiency in **all** things. So you can see now... And then the interesting part is this verse 19 that gives according to. I think you need to explore further. That is it!

Philippians 4:19 he says

My God supply your needs

Now he didn't say according to...

You know the reason why some people, if you want to give your salary, or you want to give all your wages for the month at the beginning of the year. There is nothing wrong with it. But what could be wrong with it is if you are giving so that God can bless you. It means you are saying the Redemption of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ, the poverty that Christ went through so that you can become rich, you are saying it doesn't matter, is irrelevant. I am going to ensure that God bless me by what I give. If you do that you are giving out of grace. You are giving without abounding in grace. And the Apostle Paul said in 1Corinthians 13 it profits you nothing. That's what he says if you do that.

Now look at what he says

He said. My God supply your needs according...

Have you notice, he didn't put how much you give like we said, if Paul was going to take advantage of how much you give, this is a perfect church to use. This church is not like the Corinthians. Have you notice the Corinthians church the Apostle Paul had to actually do a lot of grace teaching and grace preaching for them to get the gist. The Corinthians brethren.

But this Philippians people were just motivated. They were just motivated to give, in fact Paul said even when he left Philippi and he went to Thessalonica they were still sending to the needs of Paul in Thessalonica. These people were motivated. If Paul was going to teach about the fact that God will give you in accordance to what you give God, these could have be Paul's opportunity to teach. But Paul said, my God... Philippians 4:19 shall supply all your needs in accordance with his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

See what the Living Bible has to say because I like this translation he says

See what he says

**And it is he who supply all our needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ has done in us.**

He says... so it has nothing to do about your own offering besides.

What then does it have to do with your giving? How painful it is? What does it have to do with whether you gave all your salary in the first month of the year? Its...

Philippians 4:19 the Living Bible translation says it will be in accordance to what Christ has done in you. And what Christ has done in you has nothing to do with your giving.

In fact may I say this? This might surprise you. What Christ did in you, you didn't deserve it. because the Bible say while we were yet sinners, it means when you have no idea about giving, when you were a selfish prat, when you have no notion about blessing the work of the kingdom with your resource. The Bible says even before you ever thought actually releasing your life to Jesus. He said when you were yet sinners, when you were yet ungodly Christ died for us. So the grace of our Lord Jesus has nothing to do on your performance. Sorry to say that.

Bible says that based on what Christ did in you, he releases and supply your need. And the questions is where is giving in that verse? Where is in accordance to your giving in that verse?

And we say this, now don't get this twisted if you are just tuning to this particular episode today on Knock Out series 7, we are not saying it is wrong to give. If you thinking that is what we are talking about, you miss the point. Please make sure you watch our two previous episode Knock Out 5 and Knock Out 6 to get this whole understanding. We are not saying is wrong to give. We are simply saying is so terrible, it is grace killing if you give outside of grace. Bible says it profit you nothing. And we are simply saying that the foundation of giving must come from the platform of grace. If it is not, it profited you nothing according to 1Corinthians 13.

So here again the Apostle Paul is actually teaching ... have you notice one thing and I think this's really is something that a lot of Minister do today. If they actually go to a particular place or go to a particular place of worship to minister. In other to motivate others to minister, what they tend to do is they will actually tend to give stories about somebody who gave, who gave his car or somebody who walks back home bare footed because he gave his car. And they will tell you this person within one week his story changed. And they do such a thing to motivate others to give.



Now the question is which kind of Apostle is Apostle Paul? Is this how he motivate people to give? Is this how the Apostle Paul is intending to motivate the Philippians to give more? Is this how he's intending that other churches who read this particular letter will be motivated to give when you are trying to tell them that your needs are supply in accordance to what Christ did in you? Philippians 4:19, is this how you motivate people to give? I mean this is quite mind boggling for those who teach, who handle the word of truth that people deserve to know the truth, that everything that get supply is from the foundation of what Christ gave to them. And it has nothing to with their giving. And the people need to know as well from what we have been studying so far that any time you give, you must give out the foundation of grace and when you do, 2Corinthians 9:8 says God is able to make grace abound towards you.

And we said what is that grace? It is the grace that knows that you are already rich, and then you give. Not because you want to give so that you can become rich. And this is the whole foundation of the Living Word. So we see Philippians 4:19, we see Paul's own special way of motivating the brethren to give.

And is very instructive for us to know that in the letter to the brethren in Philippi, that these people, he was not giving occasion that because you have giving and citing examples like our modern day preachers would do, Oh because you gave this, can you see things that were happening to you that were not happening in other churches, so that the other people will get jealous.

You know, now they are inciting jealousy, now they are inciting rivalry, and people are doing competition, bidding war on the pulpit so that if you beat this, and this so that you get this. People are even inciting people to covetousness. But we see that he was not giving the example and make other Thessalonian churches to be jealous of the Philippians brethren.

You can see what is happening in their life, we don't have this story and so that is telling us about this basis of giving. That we cannot let... you don't allow anybody to bring your life down, to take you out of God's grace and bring you to testimony, spoiling you with people's words and experiences. They are cheating you out of your benefits in Christ if people ask you to give so that you can become what you are already. Is cheating, that is abuse. They are cheating you.

Now you are being cheated. That means they are cheating you and you are allowing yourself to be cheated. Anytime people ask you to give so that you can become what you are already. Think about this! Is a big cheat on you.

And if you are going to take anything from this episode today, you just have to remember that Philippians 4:19 you know you've heard it several times. But I want you to look again into that length of the spirit. We are looking at it in verse 19 that according to his riches in glory. So if that one is drum into you and every time you are hearing about giving, according to his riches. Not what you want to give at that point in time, or what they have tied, the money they have tied for you, they say you must gave this. In that you gave according... It is according to his riches in glory, is not according to your own ability.

And today we were able to redefined in 1Corinthians 9 that the grace that when we have to come in, we have to come in with the settled knowledge of the grace of God being domicile in us that we already have sufficiency in all things.

So how relieved, how relieving will that be? What a relieve from the pressure of let me give to get, or let me give to impress God or to break forth to a new level or let me show to show that I really do, that I am really serious among those pressure is off because you know that you already has all these things. That you have sufficiency in all things.

You are able to abound to every good work. Can you see it says so you can abound to every good works? There are bad works. Really! Yes! That is it!

And we can see the Philippians church so they were abounding. They are always abounding, they were abounding and they were communicating, out of the knowledge that they have.

And we see the apostolic example here that he was not using them as experience or saying because of this... according to his riches and he was not saying because you gave much and this is it.

So I just hope that this has blessed you today and then we want to encourage you.

We thank those people that are sharing, we want to encourage you to share this more to other people to bless others as it has blessed you. Because we really want the same people, people in your group and everything to understand that, speaking the same language you know.

We don't you to be saying this and they are saying something else.

We really want you to keep them enlighten with the truth.

And so we hope that you'll join us tomorrow UK 9am as we continue on this Knock Out series.

So till then we want to say Bye.

And then stop pointless giving, give according to grace.

Okay

Bye!!!