

Extravagant Worship Part 4

The Loving Nature of God

Three Necessary Keys To Become A Happy, Extravagant Worshiper of God:

1. We must understand the living nature of money.
2. We must understand the limited nature of man.
3. We must understand the loving nature of God.

Broken Down:

1. We must understand the living nature of money.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”
II Corinthians 9:6

2. We must understand the limited nature of man.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
II Corinthians 9:7

● Seems Like A Little Thing But It Makes A Big Difference

1. You Are Only Capable Of Making Decisions In Your Heart Or In Your Head.
 2. This life is God's gift to us and what we do with this life becomes our gift to God.
 3. You Are a Giver or You Are a Taker
 4. You Are Motivated by Resentment and Envy or Self-Control and Being Alert
3. We must understand the loving nature of God.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
II Corinthians 9:8

Intro: There is something exciting about this hour. There are seasons where we can get sentimental, there are dates that we had better not forget. There are dead lines that our jobs and families depend on. But there is an hour where God calls on us personally.

When we read the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, only two of these books talk about Jesus' birth, but all four speak about his last week leading up to his death. Approximately One fourth of the four Gospels is concentrated on that final week of Christ life here on this earth that leads to His crucifixion.

John's Gospel spends a great deal of time describing all the events that leads up to the crucifixion. Ruffly half the book of John is focused on the last week of Jesus' life. In John 12, Jesus tells us:

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

John 12:27-28

God Was Listening

*"Then a voice came from heaven, **"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."***

John 12:29

- Some of the people said that it thundered
- Others said that it was an angel speaking

Wise Men From The East

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

Matthew 2:10-11

Paul- God is able to save completely, to the uttermost...

"Therefore he, (God), is able to save completely those who come to God through him, (Jesus), because he always lives to intercede for them."

Hebrews 7:25

KJV, NKJ, ESV, ASV, **"to the uttermost..."**

GK. panteles 3838: From two words:

- **pas** 3956- 1) **individually**- each, every, any, all 2) **collectively**- some of all types
- **telos** 5056- 1) **end**- termination, that by which a thing is finished 2) **toll**, custom

God saves us "from", "in" and "to". God's plan of redemption was to take us from the grips of sins stronghold in our lives, He is presently working in the circumstances of our life and is "able" to save you "too" the life you were created for. God is not looking "only" at your past when He comes into your life and saves you. And His intention is not "only" to see the blood of Jesus redeem your life presently but that his grace is able to bring you into full restoration of who you were created to be. His saving you is first from the eternal death you were destined toward without the intervention of the cross. Secondly, God has sent His Son into our life to save us from a limited stagnation of the present. God is able, He has the power to save you to the future of your final hour to where you can say, "I was made for this!"

Two things we need to know about the Loving Nature of God:

1. God Is Able

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

II Corinthians 9:8

- **AND- Additionally or Conditionally:** There are some passages that depend on the scriptures that surround it. One thought builds upon the last one until the statements build one thought or processes of certain truths. Here, the word “and,” is an “Additional” statement that rests in addition of the others. It is not a Condition of the scriptures prior to it, it is a statement that stand on it's own.
- **God can! God is able!**- I love that!

Two Ways That God Responds To Us: He Is Able and He Is Faithful

Paul- God Can! God is “able” or Power- dunamai 1410: to be able, capable, strong and powerful, have power whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources, or of a state of mind, or through favorable circumstances, or by permission of law or custom.

“Now I commit you to God and the word of his grace-his message that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.”

Acts 20:32

Paul- God Will! God is “faithful”- pistos 4103- trusty, faithful, a person who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

I Corinthians 10:13

Amaziah- II Chronicles 25:1-10: Amaziah was **25** years old when he began to reign as King of Judah. He gathered all the men of Judah together to build an **army of 300,000 men** above the age of 25, appointing over them captains of thousands and of hundreds.

- In addition, (II Chronicles 25:6) He **hired a 100,000 mercenaries** from Israel for 100 talents of silver.

A man of God approached King Amaziah and said, “This is not a good idea and the Lord is not with it. You've got to get rid of the mercenaries. If you don't, you will fail and be defeated. Amaziah responds in asking the question, “But what about the money we spent and invested in these guys?”

God is able to give you more than this! The man of God responds.

The exiting army became mad, but it had to be done to so God could do His work. Amaziah obeyed and he won the battle. **God is able!**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego- Daniel 3: King Nebuchadnezzar had set up a **90' tall X 9' wide Golden image or idol** and made a law that when the music played that everyone had to bow down and worship the idol or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three young men who had risen from slaves to rulers. They had been given the power to govern Babylon, the capital city, Nebuchadnezzar's city. Nebuchadnezzar tried to make a deal with them and give them another chance, but their response was:

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God who we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty."

Daniel 3:17

Big Daddy Weave- What I Was Made For

*I used to think that I was never good enough to cut it
I bought the lines that they were selling time after time
But when You opened up my mind and I refused to shut it
You brought me to a place where I could leave it all behind*

*Good-bye to my old life
I don't listen to those lies anymore
You've given me new life
Loving You is what I was made for*

*It took a while for me to see but when I finally saw it
I knew I had to leave my sorted past in the past
I couldn't get there on my own it was Your grace that taught it
My sin is covered by Your blood and I'm not looking back*

*You saw right through me
Your kindness drew me
Your mercy knew me
Your love came to me*

Three things we need to know about the Loving Nature of God:

- 1. God Is Able**
- 2. All Grace Can Abound In Me**

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

II Corinthians 9:8

As important as it is that we believe that God is able, we must also be persuaded that God is willing to make all grace abound in us. Grace to forgive us of the past. Grace to be our sufficient strength in the present and grace to continue the vigorous development to the person He had created us to be. Just as God is able to activate the living nature of money and use the limited nature of man, the loving nature of God is capable of pouring out His full supply of grace on us.

Grace Agency

God operates according to His grace. Grace is a huge ball of God's goodness

and it is the means by which God works on our behalf. Grace is the agency of God's power and faith is the application for response or exchange.

- *We all understand that the “government” is a figurative statement. But, the “government” is actually activated through several agencies, FBI, CIA, United States Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, the federal government, the legislative government. The government is the accumulation of all of it's agencies.*
- *Grace is the agency of God. It demonstrates God's love to us and cultivates our hearts toward Him. The amazing thing is that this grace is greater and larger than the United States government. That huge grace, all of it, is able to abound to us.*

Every Good Work- I Was Made For This!

In the **Little Mermaid** the young girl had a huge store room of items that had been collected from the ocean floor. She had no idea what the purpose of them were, she used a fork to comb her hair and so on. She had names for them that did not describe them at all. A whatchamacallit and other names were used in trying to describe these items.

Many people are items on the ocean floor being described by the beings who have no clue as to who you are. See, it is not that God is not pleased with you when you don't serve Him, He loves you no matter what. But when you were created for a purpose, it is such a shame that you are being used in your life for a different purpose.

I learned a few years ago **as a carpenter that a tape measure doesn't make a good hammer**. Of course that sounds obvious, but in the situations when my hammer had fallen off the roof or I only had my tape measure with me while looking over a particular house, my tape was the hardest thing available to drive a nail. I believe it took me a couple of times to realize that though I could drive a nail with the tape measure, it would bust the internal spring inside the tape measure and it would no longer retract. Now I still had a hammer about fifty feet away but no longer had the ability to measure.

When our lives are used for something other than it was created for, it has a ware and tare on it that can break it down and leave it purposeless. As a Christian, I believe that there is this supernatural pressure that we interpret as performance, or “works”. This pressure gets confused with “love”. So, for the sake us understanding one or the other or having sanity of one or the other we chose one and live there, “love” or “works”. God's true purpose was not for one to be more valued than the other, but that they both be understood, valued and pursued.

Each of us have probably experienced a relationship with someone else that you see such great potential in them but they live on this lower level or on the other extreme, out of control. Many times fear, wounds, addictions or anger will limit that persons potential and they never rise above where they are. There are many people I have know who wasted great talent, education and opportunity. What I can do for Christ is not the

point when it comes to works, it's about becoming who I was made to be in discovering my God given design. It is not so much an act of obedience or "works" as it is an acting out our natural creative purpose!

Serving God is not about Him sitting on His heavenly throne looking at you with His arms folded with smoke coming out of His ears thinking, "You are not doing what I wanted!" He is looking at you with eyes of sincere love thinking, "Your potential is way more than you are capable of showing because you are limited, being entangled with things of this world with the hurts, wounds and distractions. Much like an eighty year old woman driving a corvette thirty miles an hour everywhere she goes, that would be wrong. It's also the same feeling that I get when I see a 16 to 18 year old drive a Humvee. It just don't seem right. It's not about the kid, it's about the car, it deserves better. God looks at you and doesn't see, what a stupid car, being driven like that. He looks at you and says, "Oh, you deserve better." "I'd like to help you but you would rather have someone else drive your life."

God never draws us out of bondage that he doesn't also send us on a designated mission. There is not only the potential of having freedom with Christ that there is not also a mission for Christ. God saves us, restores us, delivers us not just to hang around but to be called into the priesthood of the believer. **I WAS MEANT FOR THIS MOMENTS!**

There is no end to the ways we can be blessed because God is able and willing to make all grace abound toward us that we can abound in every good work.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

II Corinthians 9:8

Three Areas Grace Will Abound In

You need Grace activated in your life so that these three stated "all" things can be activated to make your life abound in "Every Good Work!" "I was made for this moments."

- **In All Things**
- **At All Times**
- **Having All You Need**

The KJV uses the word "sufficiency" in all things. The word "*sufficiency*" (*autarkeia*) could be translated as *contentment*. It could be the peaceful idea that you are living in your "sweet spot". It is not just a feeling that everything is going your way. It is the understanding that you know you are in the right place, God is able and God is willing. You will make it through, not just for your survival but for your affect on others.

William Barclay describes the word *autarkeia*: like this: "By it they meant a complete *self-sufficiency*. They meant a frame of mind which was completely

independent of all outward things, and which carried the secret of happiness within itself. Contentment never comes from the possession of external things."

When we start living in reckless abandonment toward the things of God instead of living for our own flesh, there will be a sufficiency that comes from God that enables you in all things, at all times in all you need. God is there when we free fall into His arms.

This is why so many people who have depleted all means of purpose and success, who finally bottom out financially, emotionally or physically find His arms waiting on the other side. And there is a "sufficiency", a contentment that the world does not know. It mocks, it scoffs at it and it remains a mystery to them. But there is a God who is able and who is willing to allow you to draw from His Grace agency and its restoration abilities.

Too many people have experienced the trauma of life that causes them to hold so dearly onto things and money that they have lost the ability to know the "full", the abounding grace of God.

This idea is somewhat confused and demented in our society. I have met men who had made thousands of dollars in their lives. They had the cars, the houses and the offices. But somewhere down the road their job became sour, their homes split apart and they lost many of their possessions. In response to that you can find them living in a small or modest house, perhaps driving a little car pattering to their simple job. They refuse to go back into that environment, not because they are content, but because all of it reminds them of their hurtful past.

I believe many people who claim to be Christians have not yet experienced the "abounding grace" of God in their lives, but are disgruntled, wounded people who are still reacting to their hurtful past while still holding onto the social atmosphere of the church for their sanity and sense of worth. They have not become abandoned, but they have become addicted to a new group of people who show love and give them some kind of significance. The grace of God can not abound in this, not in the way God wants it to. There is obviously a time for individuals to receive their healing and to grow out of the hurtful past. But God's incredible tug of the heart is to not only redeem us from a damnable past, or a difficult present. But the grace of God is able to abound in you "all" things for a healthy and powerful future.

For us to come into this abounding grace, it will make us the richest people in the world. The wealth of this world can not match the contentment of a person experiencing the abounding grace of God. Many have been saved from their sin, but few have been saved from the deceitfulness of the offering of abundant life in this world. Because of Christ we have become a "better" people, but few have become "abounding" people, full of contentment and sufficiency in grace.

The Idea Of Every Good Work

Jesus was approached by a wealthy man in Mark 10:17-22 and addressed Him as "Good Teacher". Jesus' response to him was,

"No one is good except God alone."

Mark 10:18

Jesus is not being humble here, he is being as clear as He could ever be. There is none that is good except my Father. A "Good Work" is a God work. A good idea may not be a God idea.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways."

Isaiah 55:8-9

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

Romans 13:9

Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:35

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him."

Matthew 12:35

Paul is saying that once we allow this grace to be activated in our lives, not only for the forgiveness of our sins, or for the present healing of our lives but for the development of who we have been created to be, we will see a huge avalanche of change and exchange. What has been stored up in us, either good or evil will be shown. We give and it will be given back in abundance as we continue to become the conduit in which God chooses to use our lives and we continue to find a perfect peace in that life. You don't see it as one that is disgustingly sacrificial, but uncanny in its display of peace amidst the worst of conditions.

Our good works are a "God Work", and it comes from God's ideas. There are humanitarian aids all over the world but the wealth of the wicked are saved up for the "righteous." Who are the righteous? Those who know how to be a conduit of the love of God know that the poor are God's target for His expression of love and that He wants them to see His love and "Glorify" Him. Why? Because they are at the place that they could know Him as their "abounding grace!" They have nothing and can only believe that it must be God.

Giving to the poor does not make us righteous, but giving to the poor is evidence that God has established His abounding grace in your heart and that you are content in loving people less fortunate and less capable of receiving love. Giving to the poor is an act of righteousness.

What Is Stored Up In You?

Characteristics of a Person Touched By The Loving Nature of God

"As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

II Corinthians 9:9

1. He Freely Gives To The Poor

Verse 9. *He scattered abroad*

Paul is quoting **Psalms 112:9** here. Here, the Psalm is talking about the sower not God. He, that would be you and myself, sows *much*; not *just here* where I am familiar with *everything* and *everybody*, but *abroad*-

The Message puts it this way:

"He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon."
II Corinthians 9:9 (*The Message*)

Our reckless abandon is given among *strangers, either around us or abroad*. The picture is that we understand the principle of giving as a **spiritual dynamic**, not necessarily "investing" because if you look at the projected returns, it does not give any indication that it will have any probable yields.

Jesus taught that our simplest act of worshipful expression through giving would not go unrewarded.

"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." Matthew 10:42

Characteristics of a Person Touched By The Loving Nature of God

First: He Freely Gives To The Poor

2. He Knows That His Giving Has Eternal Affect

*"As it is written: "He has scattered **abroad** his gifts to the poor; **his righteousness endures forever.**"*
II Corinthians 9:9

He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor

If I were to ask you if you were a righteous man or woman, you would probably say that the blood of Jesus has given you the ability to be righteous. You might say, "Yes, I'm righteous because He has made me righteous." But this scripture indicates that an everlasting righteousness will be established for the person who understands the principle of giving...to the poor abroad. **I Was Made For This. Forever**, in the mind of God these acts will draw His attention as acts of the righteous.

In acting kindly and graciously toward the poor should not only be a "humbling experience", though you might realize how fortunate you are or how difficult life might be for them. Your free scattering to the poor should be a gracious expression of the love of God in your own life! The abounding grace of God explodes from you, in your smile, in your giving, through your prayers and in your everyday living.

Characteristics of a Person Touched By The Loving Nature of God

First: He Freely Gives To The Poor

Second: He Knows That His Giving Has Eternal Affect

3. He Knows That He Can't Out Give God

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

II Corinthians 9:10

Verse 10. *Now he supplies seed to the sower*

God gives the seed to sow to the sower. You and I are the sower and we are given seed for the purpose of sowing.

Leader of The Choir: The word οεπιχορηγων, *he that ministereth*, or “supplies seed” is also defined as, “*he who leads up the chorus*”, from επι, to, and χορηγω to *lead the chorus*; it means also to *join to, associate, to supply or furnish one thing after another* so that there be no *want or chasm*. Here God is the director of the orchestra, who hears the cry of one in the wilderness of their life, they may be lost, they may not even know God, but the cry is one of openness to the possibility of a “greater power”, “Someone up there”. And God creates an opportunity for you to join in labor with you potential brother in Christ and He ropes both sides of the chasm and draws them together so that your giving affects this other person thousands of miles away, and the see it as a miracle or an act of God, or an expression of the listening ear of God.

So God leads His grand orchestra by providing the seed to the the sower. God gives us certain opportunities, abilities and skills to harvest the seed and disperse it. God loves to give seed. He wants to have a huge, bountiful harvest in your life not so you are blessed as much as you become a blessing.

An example of this is given to us by the prophet Hosea:

“I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear the heavens; and they shall hear the earth; and the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.”

Hosea 2:21,22

Why Does God Want To Give Us So Much?

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

II Corinthians 9:11

- ***So that you can be generous on every occasion***
- ***So your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God***

To be full of GENEROSITY, EXTRAVAGANT is why God gives us so much. When? On every occasion and because of that, extravagant worship will come from those blessed by your generosity. We are not blessed for our own riches, security or lavished lifestyle, but for the generous giving to others.

- *“No man ought to live to himself; the two great ends of every Christian's life ought to be,*

the glory of God, and the good of others, especially such as belong to the household of faith." (Poole)

Four Perceptions Drawn From Acts of A Giver (Vs. 12-15):

1. It Is Perceived As Extravagant Worship By God!

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

II Corinthians 9:12

Your giving not only supplies the needs of the God's people, but also is abounding, overflowing in many expressions to God. Your giving is a confession that GOD IS ABLE! GOD IS ABLE! GOD IS ABLE! You defy your fears to hold on to things because you are afraid God will not show up. You defy your flesh to be afraid of what other people think and what you look like. You defy the pressure around you to be selfish and self centered, self absorbed.

All that God gives me is a supply to sow and make bread that I might have an abundant opportunity to give that in every giving away I am screaming, shouting worship to God!

2. It Is Perceived That You Are Who You Say You Are!

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves..."

II Corinthians 9:13a

People will no longer be consumed with their needs but with the giver of those needs. We must be careful today because there is a revival of humanitarian aid being given in the United States. This act of generosity could be inspired by none other than Satan himself. If the Christian's vacates this ministry, it would be nothing for Satan to pick it up and turn men's eyes from a loving God to a liberal, anti-Christ man. I believe that our giving to the poor and needy in the next few years will determine why people will go to heaven and to hell.

It's important to feel that you were made for this, but also you are who you think you are!

3. It Is Perceived As Worthy of Extravagant Worship to God by Men!

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God..."

II Corinthians 9:13b

You become contagious. Your outward of expression of praise through giving is seen by men to prove that you are a Christian and that you are motivated by the love of God and they know you are not part of this world. Men just don't do that. But you cause them to go nowhere but to God themselves and give Him extravagant worship.

4. It Is Perceived As Worthy of Extravagant Pray By Man For You!

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

II Corinthians 9:13

"And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

II Corinthians 9:14-15

Your act of extravagant worship is expressed in giving to the poor and it is perceived as:

1. Extravagant Worship By God From You
2. You Are Who You Say You Are
3. A Reason For Extravagant Worship By Men To God
4. Worth of Extravagant Prayer By Man For You.

Your acts of Worship by giving to others causes people to be your personal intercessors for you. There will always be a place in their hearts for you, when you do something stupid or odd there will be an extended grace for you in their heart. They will fight for you! What a cool blessing, you gave beans and they raise up their sword of the Spirit against the demons that want to surround your life and choke the life out of you. But they yell, "Satan, take your hand off my friend in the Name of Jesus!"

Can you afford to not give to the poor?

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

II Corinthians 9:14-15