

The Answer to All Your Problems in a Single Verse

2 Corinthians 9:8—*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work.*

Problems... We've all got 'em! Big problems / small problems... Family problems / Financial problems... Intellectual problems / legal problems... Physical problems / spiritual problems... Employment problems / problems sleeping.

Why does God allow problems? To make us THINK on Him... TURN to Him... and TRUST in Him.

➡ 2 Corinthians 9:8 is a **WHOPPER!** It contains in capsulized form the *answer* to every problem you and I will ever face. I did not say it will SOLVE all your problems, but it is the ANSWER to what you need for your problems. It does not *erase* your problems—It *eases* your problems. It does not *remove* your problems—It provides *relief* from your problems.

Dr. Peter Ruckman refers to this verse as the second greatest promise in the Bible for a Christian (the first being Romans 8:28).¹

Another preacher said of our text: “Here the story of the Christian faith is reduced to one sentence.”

Look at it phrase by phrase! Notice the **superlatives!**

- “*God is **ABLE**...*” [No problem is too difficult for Him].
- “*...to make **ALL** grace...*” [that’s a whole lot of grace!]
- “*...**ABOUND** toward you...*” [“*abound*” means overflow—more than enough]
- “*...**ALWAYS** having **ALL** sufficiency...*” [Everything I need, whenever I need it!]
- “*...in **ALL** things...*” [Not somethings, but ALL things. That includes any problem I may be facing.]
- “*... may **ABOUND**...*” [Exceeds whatever my situation requires.]
- “*... to **EVERY** good work.*” [That includes whatever I need to do].

THE FOUR-FOLD BASIS FOR THIS PROMISE:

I. The premise of God’s ABILITY—“*God is ABLE...*”

¹ *Ruckman Reference Bible*, (BB Bookstore, Pensacola, FL), marginal note at 2 Corinthians 9:8.

- *God IS...* light... love... jealous... holy...
 - *God is ABLE*— He is omnipotent.
 - The answer of our problem **begins** with the power of God!
 - Nothing is too hard for God!
- A. Human power inadequate. Our problems will never be answered as long as we rely on our own power. Without the power of God we are forced to operate on the same power the world has — the power of human intellect... the power of numbers... the power of political maneuvering... or, the power of moral constraint.

A.C. Dixon once wrote: “When we rely on organization, we get what organization can do. When we rely upon education, we get what education can do. When we rely on eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But, when we rely on prayer, we get what God can do.”

- B. “*God is able...*” is found in several N.T. verses:
1. “*God is able to keep you from falling.*” (Jude 24)
 2. In Romans 14:4 Paul warns about judging a weaker brother because, “*he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*” Praise God, I don’t hold myself up! God holds me up. I don’t stand in my power, but God’s.
 3. Ephesians 3:20—“*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is at work in us.*” God’s power will exceed whatever we can think... imagine... or dream.
 4. Philippians 3:21 assures us God “*is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*” He subdued Pharaoh’s grip on the children of Israel... Haman’s plot against Mordecai... Herod’s plans to kill the baby Jesus... He subdued the storm on the Sea of Galilee... He subdued the lions before Daniel... He subdued the hold of death upon Lazarus.
 - ➡ God is able to subdue any problem that troubles us— Family problems... sin problems... emotional problems...

- 2 Peter 1:3— “According as *his divine power* hath given unto us *all things that pertain unto life and godliness...*”
- “And **God is able** to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” No problem is so big, that His grace cannot get you through it.

II. The provision that **ABOUNDS**—“...to make **ALL** grace **ABOUND** toward you...”

- **Grace is the answer** to your every need or your every problem.
- A. How much is “*ALL* grace?”
1. “*All*” includes **everything**. “All” is the largest little word in the world. It appears “*all*” is **one of God’s favorite words** for it occurs over 5,600 times in the Bible. God didn’t waste words when He gave us His Word (Mt. 4:4).
 2. No problem is too small that He doesn’t care, and no problem is too big that His sufficient grace can’t handle it!
 3. God is “*the God of ALL* grace.” **Grace is God applying His omnipotence to our situation or circumstance.**
- B. **All kinds of grace.** God provides different types of grace for different types of problems:
1. **Saving** grace for the problem of salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).
 2. **Serving** grace for the problem of enablement (1 Cor. 15:10— Don’t waste the investment that has been made in your life).
 3. **Suffering** grace for the problem of infirmity (2 Cor. 12:9-10).
 4. **Dying** grace (Ps. 23). D. L. Moody was once asked, “Dr. Moody, do you have dying grace?” “No, I don’t,” he answered. “I’m not dying yet!” But when it comes time to die, God will give you dying grace as He did for David (Ps. 23)... Paul (2 Tim. 4)... Stephen (Acts 7).
- C. **God’s grace is abounding**— *overflowing*—more than enough—without limits (a= no / bound= boundary).

- For whatever problem you are facing, the question is: **How much grace do you need?** Just go to the Lord and ask Him for it (Heb. 4:16).

III. The plenty that is **AVAILABLE** —“...*ALWAYS having ALL SUFFICIENCY in ALL things...*”

- A. **ALWAYS** (at ALL times). There are **no limits in TIME**— Grace for every minute of every day—“*As thy day, so shall thy strength be*” (Dt. 33:25). You may always have enough. No matter whether you are old or young or middle-aged—No matter whether it is day or night or in between, ***always***.
- B. **ALL SUFFICIENCY** (ALL that is needed). There are **no limits in AMOUNT**.

God is not a miser—God doesn’t put you on rations and say, “Sorry, you can only have a little bit grace. There's not quite enough to go around.” No, you can have all it takes, all the time.

➡ Like manna in the wilderness... the widow’s cruse of oil... the multiplying of the bread and fishes to feed 5,000.

➡ No matter what the demand is... no matter how great the pressure is... you have unlimited resources available for any problem you encounter.

- C. **ALL THINGS** (for ALL situations). There are **no limits in VARIETY**. It does not make any difference what the kind of a trial it may be— spiritual, social, financial, psychological, physical, or personal. Whatever it is, there is enough grace to

B. This is a **CONDITIONAL** promise aimed at a certain kind of Christian. **Who is the “YOU” and “YE” of this verse?** The context of 1 Corinthians 9:8 is sacrificial giving (cf. vs. 6-10). The church at Corinth had committed to give a special offering. God promised to provide for them as they gave.

➡ God gives back to the believer so that he can abound in service. God does not give back to the Christian to hoard or keep it for himself. He gives so we can abound more in giving.

SUMMATION: God doesn't impart *some* grace or *some* sufficiency in *some* things for *some* good works. It is all... all... all... ALL!

I was reading in John MacArthur's book *Our Sufficiency in Christ* about an experience one pastor had while conducting a series of special meetings in North and South Carolina: He was staying in the home of some friends in Asheville and traveling to wherever he was speaking each evening.

One night he was scheduled to speak at a church in Greenville, South Carolina, which is several hours from Asheville. Because he didn't have a car, some friends from Greenville offered to drive him to and from the meeting. When they came to pick him up, he told his hosts he hoped to be back by midnight or soon afterward.

After church service in Greenville he was driven back to Asheville to the house where he was staying. It was past midnight. As he got out of the car, he told his friend who drove him back, "You must hurry. It is late and you have a long drive home."

He felt the bitter cold of the winter night as he walked up to the house. He tapped gently on the door but no one answered. He tapped a little harder, but still no reply. Finally, he beat on the kitchen door and on a side window. But still no response.

Frustrated and getting colder, he decided to find a public telephone to call his hosts. It was as dark as it was cold. He walked for several miles before he finally saw a blinking motel light. He awakened the manager, who was gracious enough to let him use the telephone.

The shivering pastor made the call and said to his sleepy host, "I hate to disturb you, but I couldn't awaken anyone in the house to let me in. I'm several miles down the road at a motel. Would you please come get me?"

His host replied, "My dear friend, you have a key to our house in your overcoat pocket. Don't you remember? I gave it to you before you left." The pastor reached into his pocket. Sure enough, there was the key.

That illustrates the predicament of some Christians who try to solve their problems by their own means, while all the time they possess the key of God's sufficient grace for any situation they find themselves in. They just forget that it is always available in their spiritual "pocket."

Christian, you have everything you will ever need to meet any trial and any difficulty you might encounter in this life. You just need to reach into the pocket of God's sufficient grace for the key to unlock the answer to your problem.

No wonder John Newton called it ***AMAZING GRACE!***