

Title: Abounding Christians
Scripture: II Corinthians 8:7
Speaker: Vic Redding
Event: Sunday Evening Service
Date: January 18, 2015

II Corinthians 8:7 *“Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”*

In the Ryrie study Bible he breaks the verse down into three parts:

- a. the principals of giving
- b. the purpose of giving
- c. the policies of giving

Growing (maturing) in the Lord will produce a right attitude toward everything concerning God. As Christians, what kind of attitude do we have toward the things of God? William Gladstone said “All that I think, all that I hope, all that I write, all that I live for, is based upon the person and the divinity of Jesus Christ who is the central joy of my poor, wayward life.” How serious do you take your relationship with God? Many today have the attitude toward God that they can just pick him up and use him when they need him. Our relationship with God is based on one single truth: whatever is strongest in you will bring forth fruit. Matthew 6:21 says *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* In verse 7 Paul says *ye abound*. Abound means to increase in large numbers; a continuing; not stopping or ending. The latter part of John 10:10 says *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* Our eternal life is abundant.

Things that Abound in the Christian Life:

1. **Abound in Faith:** Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Faith is holding on to nothing until it becomes something. Romans 4:1 *“What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?”* Romans 12:3 *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”* Faith is not foolishness. Faith has grounds. Faith has substance. Romans 14:23 says *“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”* All of us have struggled or are struggling with believing. It is because we look more at the bad and the circumstance more than we look at the good and the solutions. We keep seeing the bad – think of Peter; he walked on water until he took his eyes off the Lord. It wasn’t until then that he began to sink. Christ wants us to get centered on him and let go of everything else and focus on him. When we take our eyes off of him we lose focus and get distracted by other things. There are two main factors regarding faith in our life:
 - a. There must be a constant inflow of the word of God. You cannot neglect it and get more faith.
 - b. There must be actions that follow what you’ve read in God’s word. Faith without corresponding action is dead.
2. **Abound in Utterance:** Acts 20:20-21 *“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Utterance means to state or publish an expression or a vocal expression. In other words, tell it. In Acts 5, Peter and John were thrown into prison for preaching the message of Christ. When they went out again they knew that they were at risk for being put in prison again, but Peter said that they couldn’t do anything but obey God. They were sharing the word of God no matter what the cost. Christians are the only Bible that sinners read, so what are they reading in your life? People listen to our words and watch our actions.

Title: Abounding Christians

3. **Abound in Knowledge:** Proverbs 1:7 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* Proverbs 9:10 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* Proverbs 10:14 *"Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction."*
How do we gain knowledge? Solomon gave us two ways:
 - a. Holy reverence of God. Acknowledge who God is. He is deserving of all our praise, honor, and glory.
 - b. Study the scriptures. When you study it produces the effect on your life.
4. **Abound in Diligence:** Diligence means doing ones work in a careful and steady way. I Corinthians 15:58 *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* It's easy to lose our diligence and become indifferent. We all have storms in our lives and they can be bad at times. They can rob you from the hope you have in your heart sometimes, but we must be diligent. We must realize that our labors are not in vain in the Lord. We must never ever think that what we do for God, no matter how big or how small, is not in vain. If we can help one Christian get through a storm, we have been successful in our diligent work for God. Galatians 6:9 *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*
5. **Abound in Love:** John 15:12 *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."* How much do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you love them even when you get mad and upset? Love is a command given from God. We are to love one another. John 13:35 *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*
6. **Abound in Grace:** In II Corinthians 8:7 Paul says *"see that ye abound in this grace also."* Grace abounds in us. It keeps motivating and pushing us.

Whatever needs to abound in your life, God will bring it if you ask him.