

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Unlocking God's Abundance

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**I**s anxiety distracting you from being the servant of the Lord you want to be? Would you like to have some peace from your daily worries? Are your decisions backfiring, causing you more anxiety from doubt?

Difficult times tend to shrink not only our resources, but our positive outlook for the future. The Christian must not shrink from prayer. Prayer drives us spiritually heavenward to a faithful God who is waiting to bless us with His abundant resources.

Paul, in intercessory prayer, prays for the Ephesians to be grounded in love and therefore “filled unto all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19). God does not want to hold back in fulfilling the believer's desire to be spiritually strong. Ask Him. He “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). We can never exhaust God's abundant resources in making us strong in faith. Paul, through prayer, is unlocking God's abundant resources to strengthen the inward man of the Ephesians.

It is difficult to be gentle and forbearing with others when we are churning inside with anxiety. Yet, Paul is desiring this very calmness and action among the Christians in Philippi. “*Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:5-7).

Not only is God able to help, He is “at hand” or in earshot of our supplication. What does He offer? His “peace”, “which passeth all understanding”, awaits the thankful petitioner. Paul, confined to prison, could rejoice and exhort his brethren to rejoice in spiritually trying times, as he enjoyed God's peace. Many can not fathom such reaction, but they are probably not unlocking God's surpassing peace through constant prayer.

James writes, “*But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him*” (James 1:5). Oh to be

wise in difficult times! God says the difficult and tempting times are providing the opportunity for the proving of our faith. The journey will end up making us stronger with steadfastness (James 1:2-3). These facts may be known, but dark times may cloud our minds from such foresighted wisdom and lead us to so walk as to avoid the crucible of the persecution of righteousness.

At this spiritual crossroad, we need to ask God for wisdom, without doubting. He is ready to give wisdom “liberally” without chiding us for the lack of wisdom or bothering Him with our request. Again, prayer is the key to God's abundance.

There are conditions connected with prayer. We must be striving to live lives pleasing unto God (I John 3:22); humble enough to ask in accordance to God's will (I John 5:14); and determined not to use God's blessings in our own selfish pleasures (James 4:3). But Prayer unlocks God's abundance. . . “*The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working*” (James 5:16).