

CUPS RUNNING OVER

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Both the OT and the NT speak about a life so filled with blessings that they cannot be contained—they run over—they overflow:
1. **Ps. 23:1-6** (NKJV): *¹The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.** ²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; **my cup runs over** ["overflows" NIV]. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*
 2. **John 10:10** (NKJV): *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come **that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly** ["in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)"] AMP; Gk. **perissos** = "superabundant, superior, excessive, exceedingly abundantly above, beyond measure; to overflow or abound"].*
 3. NOTE: NIV reads "have it to the full" which is incorrect—*perissos* clearly implies *beyond* or *abundantly above* full!
- B. We often settle for a cup that is half- or three-quarters-full; we are thrilled if our cup is full; but God's plan is for us to be filled to the brim and keep running over! We actually have more blessing than we can use or contain!
1. **Luke 6:38**: *Give, and it will be given to you. **A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over,** will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*
 2. **Rom. 15:13**: *May the God of hope **fill you with all joy and peace** as you trust in Him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

C. The same Gk. word *perissos* mentioned earlier is also used in the NT to refer to leftovers—excess blessings that could not even be consumed:

1. **John 6:12-13** (KJV): [After feeding the 5,000] ¹²*When **they were filled**, He said unto His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that **remain**, that nothing be lost.”* ¹³*Therefore they gathered them together, and filled **twelve baskets** with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which **remained over and above** unto them that had eaten.*
2. **Luke 15:16-17**: [Prodigal] ¹⁶*He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.* ¹⁷*When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired men have **food to spare**, and here I am starving to death!”*

D. God is rich—He’s not stingy or limited! He has every blessing in superabundance for His children! He doesn’t ration out blessings—He pours them out!

1. Example of King Xerxes—no expense spared!

Esther 1:1-8: ¹*This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:* ²*At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,* ³*and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present.* ⁴*For a full 180 days he displayed the **vast wealth** of his kingdom and the **splendor and glory of his majesty**.* ⁵*When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king’s palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest, who were in the citadel of Susa.* ⁶*The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were **couches of gold and silver** on a mosaic **pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and other costly stones**.* ⁷*Wine was served in **goblets of gold**, each one different from the other, and the **royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king’s liberality** [“according to the king’s **generosity**” NKJV].* ⁸*By the king’s command each guest was allowed to drink in his own way, for the king*

instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished [**“no limits** were placed on the drinking, for the king had instructed all his palace officials to serve each man as much as he wanted” NLT].

2. God doesn’t ration out the Holy Spirit—He pours Him out!

John 3:34: *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for **God gives the Spirit without limit*** [**“don’t think He rations out the Spirit in bits and pieces”** MSG; **“God does not give Him His Spirit sparingly or by measure, but boundless is the gift God makes of His Spirit!”** AMP].

3. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit literally means to be “immersed” in the Spirit; on the Day of Pentecost, God didn’t measure out the Spirit with limits—He poured Him out (more about this later when we talk about the “gusher!”)

- E. In this study, we are going to look at some of the blessings that God wants to superabound, overflow and run over in our lives—Paul referred to them as “the unsearchable riches of Christ” ...

II. BLESSINGS THAT GOD WANTS TO OVERFLOW

A. Lavish, overflowing grace

1. **Rom. 5:15, 17:** *¹⁵But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did **God’s grace** and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, **overflow** [perissos] to the many!.... ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s **abundant provision** [perissos] **of grace** and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*
2. **2 Cor. 9:8:** *And God is able to make all **grace abound** [perisseuo] to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will **abound** in every good work.*
3. **Eph. 1:7-8:** *⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of **God’s grace** ⁸that He **lavished** [perisseuo] on us with all wisdom and understanding.*

4. **Eph. 2:7** (NKJV): *That in the ages to come He might show the **exceeding** [Gk. *huperballo* = “to exceed, excel, surpass, throw beyond”] **riches of His grace** in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
5. **Acts 4:33** (NAS): *And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **abundant** [Gk. *megas* = “exceedingly great”] **grace** was upon them all.*
6. **James 4:6**: *But He gives us **more** [“more and more” AMP; “greater” NAS] **grace**. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” [NOTE: Perhaps we need to humble ourselves MORE!]*
7. **1 Cor. 14:12**: *So it is with you. Since you are eager to have **spiritual gifts**, try to **excel** [*perisseuo*; “abound” AMP] in gifts that build up the church.*
8. **2 Cor. 8:7** (NKJV): *But as you **abound** [*perisseuo*] in everything—in **faith**, in **speech**, in **knowledge**, in all **diligence**, and in your **love** for us—see that you **abound** in this **grace** also.*

B. Excess power

1. The GUSHER! On the Day of Pentecost, Peter quoted the Prophet Joel:

Acts 2:17: *“In the last days,” God says, “I will **pour out** [Gk. *ekcheō* = “to pour forth, **gush out**, shed (blood), spill”] My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.” [NOTE: The same Gk. word *ekcheō* is used in Rev. 16 when the 7 bowls of God’s wrath are poured out!]*
2. In John 4, Jesus spoke about a “spring of living water”; but in John 7:37-39, speaking about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Jesus said it would be like “rivers of living water” [a river is way beyond what we need to satisfy our thirst!]:

John 7:37-39 (NAS): ³⁷*And Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹But this He spoke*

of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

3. **Eph. 1:19** (NKJV): *And what is the **exceeding** [huperballo] **greatness of His power** toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*
4. **Eph. 3:20-21** (NKJV): ²⁰*Now to Him who is **able to do exceedingly abundantly** [Gk. huper-perissos] above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

C. Surpassing New Covenant glory

1. **2 Cor. 3:7-10**: ⁷*Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, ⁸will not the **ministry of the Spirit** be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how **much more** [perisseuo] **glorious** is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the **surpassing** [huperballo] **glory**.*
2. **2 Cor. 3:18**: *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

D. Hope and comfort

1. **Rom. 15:13**: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may **overflow** [perisseuo] **with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
2. **2 Cor. 1:3-5**: ³*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the **God of all comfort** [Steve D. at funeral], ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the **sufferings of Christ flow over** [perisseuo] into our lives, so also through Christ our **comfort overflows** [perisseuo].*
3. NOTE: Whenever there is an overflow, we need to share the excess with others (not try to hoard it for ourselves!)

E. Abounding, overflowing love

1. **Rom. 5:5:** *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has **poured out** [Gk. *ekcheō*] **His love** into our hearts [“we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives” MSG] by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.*
2. **Phil. 1:9** (NKJV): *And this I pray, that your **love** may **abound** [perisseuo] still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.*
3. **1 Thess 3:12:** *May the Lord make your **love increase and overflow** [perisseuo] for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.*
4. **1 Thess. 4:9-10** (NKJV): *⁹But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love** one another; ¹⁰and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you **increase** [perisseuo] more and more.*

F. Thankfulness, joy and praise

1. **Phil. 1:26:** *So that through my being with you again your **joy** in Christ Jesus will **overflow** [perisseuo] on account of me.*
2. **2 Cor. 8:2:** *Out of the most severe trial, their **overflowing** [perisseuo] **joy** and their extreme poverty **welled up** [perisseuo] in rich generosity.*
3. **Col. 2:6-7:** *⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing** [perisseuo] **with thankfulness**.*
4. **2 Cor. 4:15:** *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause **thanksgiving to overflow** [perisseuo] to the glory of God.*
5. **2 Cor. 9:12:** *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also **overflowing** [perisseuo] in many **expressions of thanks** to God.*
6. **Ps. 119:171:** *May my lips **overflow with praise**, for You teach me Your decrees.*

G. Abounding in the work of the Lord

1. **1 Cor. 15:58:** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always **abounding** [perisseuo] in the **work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
2. **1 Thess. 4:1:** *Finally, then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should **abound** [perisseuo] more and more, just as you received from us how you ought **to walk and to please God**.*

H. Superabundant prosperity: Giving is the key!

1. **Luke 6:38:** ***GIVE**, and it will be given to you. A **good measure**, pressed down, shaken together and **running over**, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*
2. NOTE: When we give generously, God gives us an excess so that we have even more to give!
3. **2 Cor. 9:6-14:** *⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever **sows generously** will also **reap generously**. ⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And 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**. ⁹As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰Now He [“God” AMP] 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. ¹¹You 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. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also **overflowing** [perisseuo] in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because 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. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the **surpassing** [hyperballo] **grace** God has given you.*

4. **Prov. 3:9-10:** ⁹*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;* ¹⁰*THEN your barns will be filled to **overflowing**, and your vats will **brim over** with new wine.*
5. **Ps. 65:11-13:** ¹¹*You crown the year with Your **bounty**, and Your **carts overflow with abundance**.* ¹²*The grasslands of the desert **overflow**; the hills are clothed with gladness.* ¹³*The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.*
6. **Zech. 1:17:** *“Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘My towns will again **overflow with prosperity**, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’”*

III. CONCLUSION

- A. We need to renew our minds: God is a generous God —He doesn’t ration out His riches sparingly—He pours out His blessings without limit!
- B. Jesus came to give us a superabundant, overflowing life—He wants our cups running over!
- C. God wants us to be generous like Him, sharing the overflow with others. This must be our motive!
- D. God has called us to superabound in the following:
 1. Grace
 2. Power
 3. Glory
 4. Hope and comfort
 5. Love
 6. Thankfulness, joy and praise
 7. Work of the Lord
 8. Prosperity
- E. So, let’s get overflowing and superabounding, pouring out and sharing God’s abundance with others!