

EXCELLING IN THE ESSENTIALS

1. Text: II Corinthians 8:3-7
2. Notice especially verse seven. Paul states that these Corinthian brethren are abounding in certain vital traits.
3. If this were I Corinthians it could be considered satire and irony to complement them for these attributes. But they obviously had made considerable changes for the good.
4. They were now abounding or excelling in these essential traits all of us should have. What are they?

I. **Faith**

1. They were abounding in that full trust and confidence. (Hebrews 11:6; II Corinthians 5:7)
2. Luke 17:5 Apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
3. Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing the word of God.
4. I John 5:4 Our faith overcomes the world.
5. Are we abounding in faith?

II. **Speech**

1. What we say and how we say it.
2. Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
3. Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be with grace, seasoned with salt. (James 1:19)
4. II Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words. (I Timothy 4:12 example in word)
5. Are we abounding in speech?

III. **Knowledge**

1. They were abounding in their knowledge and its application now.
2. Paul's letters would provide that information.
3. Philippians 1:9 Paul prays their knowledge and discernment would abound.
4. II Peter 3:18 We are commanded to grow in grace and knowledge.
5. Are we abounding in knowledge?

IV. **Diligence**

1. The word means earnestness, eagerness, zealously.
2. Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the diligent shall be made rich.
3. II Peter 1:10 Be diligent to make your calling and election sure.
4. Enthusiasm for the eternal
5. Are we abounding in zeal?

V. **Love**

1. Paul describes this love as "in your love for us."
2. He had written before to them in severe, strong language commanding them to deal with serious problems.
3. He had practiced "tough love" and they had changed.
4. II Corinthians 7:6-7 shows how much they loved him.
5. Are we abounding in love?

VI. **"In This Grace Also"**

1. The grace here is a gift and that gift is giving.
2. A giving heart or spirit is a precious gift from God.
3. Paul describes an example of it in verses 1-5.
4. It is obviously a gift to develop. Application:
5. Are we abounding in this gift also?

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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