

GET RICH!

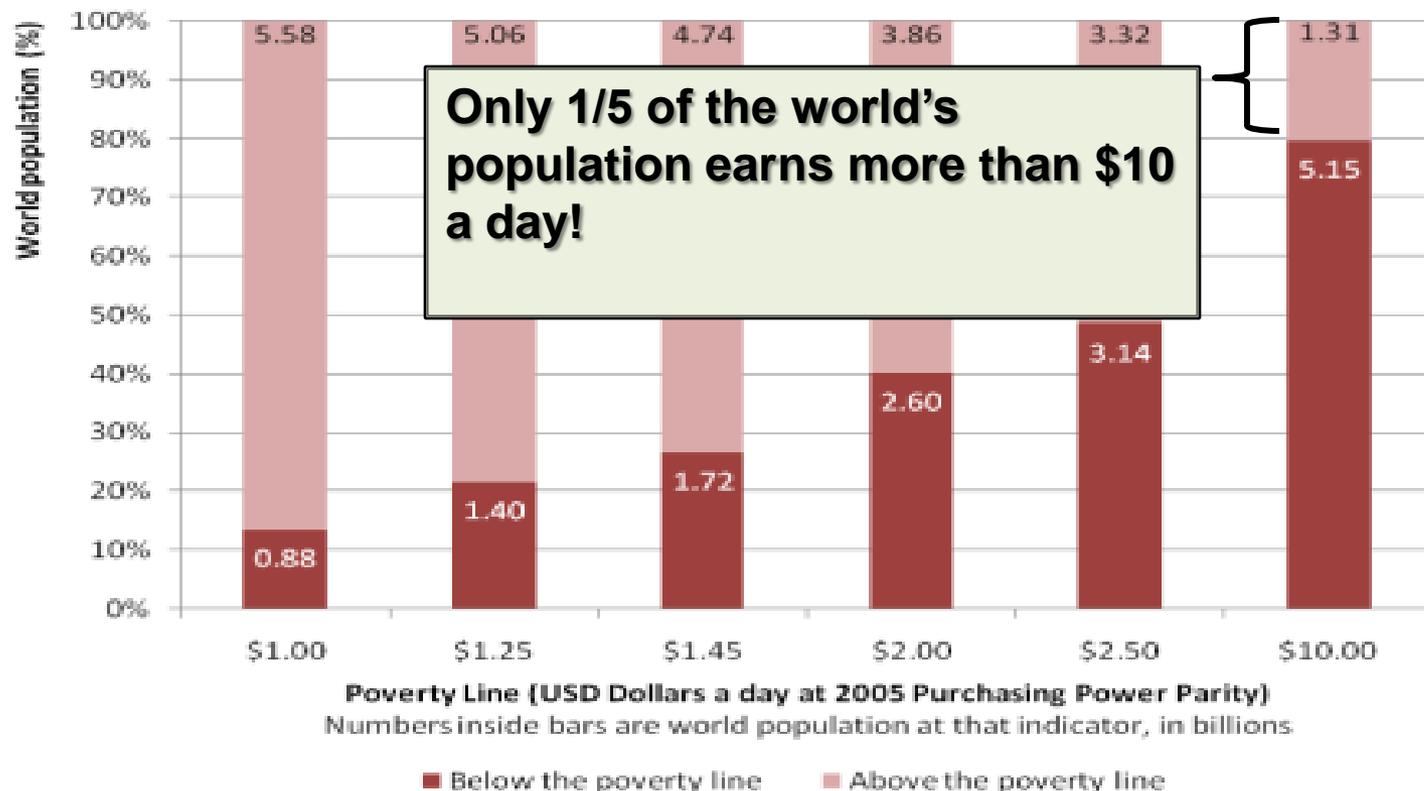
Lessons for Living in the Spiritual Economy



Mark Drabenstott
Menucha 2009

Are you rich?

Percent of people in the world at different poverty levels, 2005



Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008

QUESTION OF THE DAY

True or False?

We live in a world of scarcity.

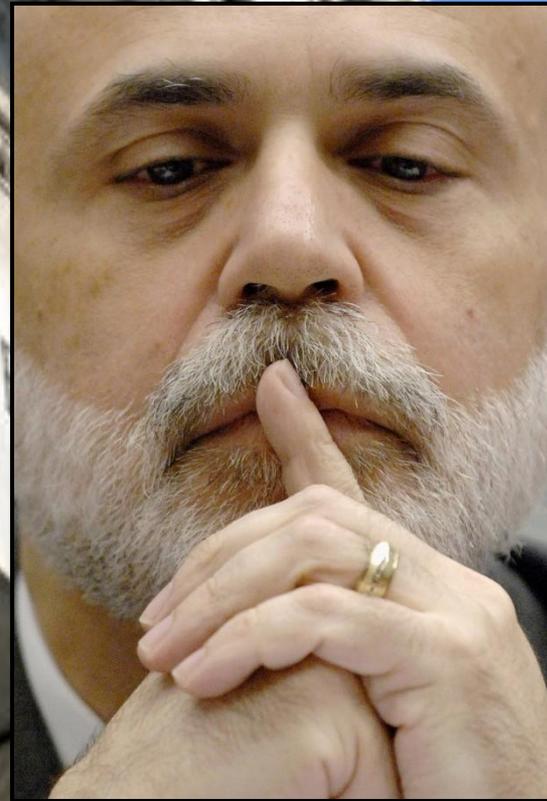
Lessons for living in the spiritual economy.

- **Get rich — toward God!**
Know your economic imperative.
- **Spiritual economics 101**
Beware mixing economic principles!
- **Invest in the spiritual economy**
Master the two secrets to success.
- **Manage debt God's way**
Avoid spiritual bankruptcy.
- **Use wealth wisely**
Give back—before it's too late.





Maestros of the Economy



Natural Economics 101

- Supply & Demand set prices—and drive the economy.
- If you are a consumer, when the price goes up, you buy *less*.
- If you are a business, when the price goes up, you produce *more*.
- These principles work the world over.



Natural Economics 101

- For this to work well, you need lots of buyers and sellers — what economists call “perfect competition.”
- If there is only one producer → *monopoly*. A few → *cartel*.
- If there is only one buyer → *monopsony*.
- To prevent this, there is a government “umpire.”

Chicago Board of Trade



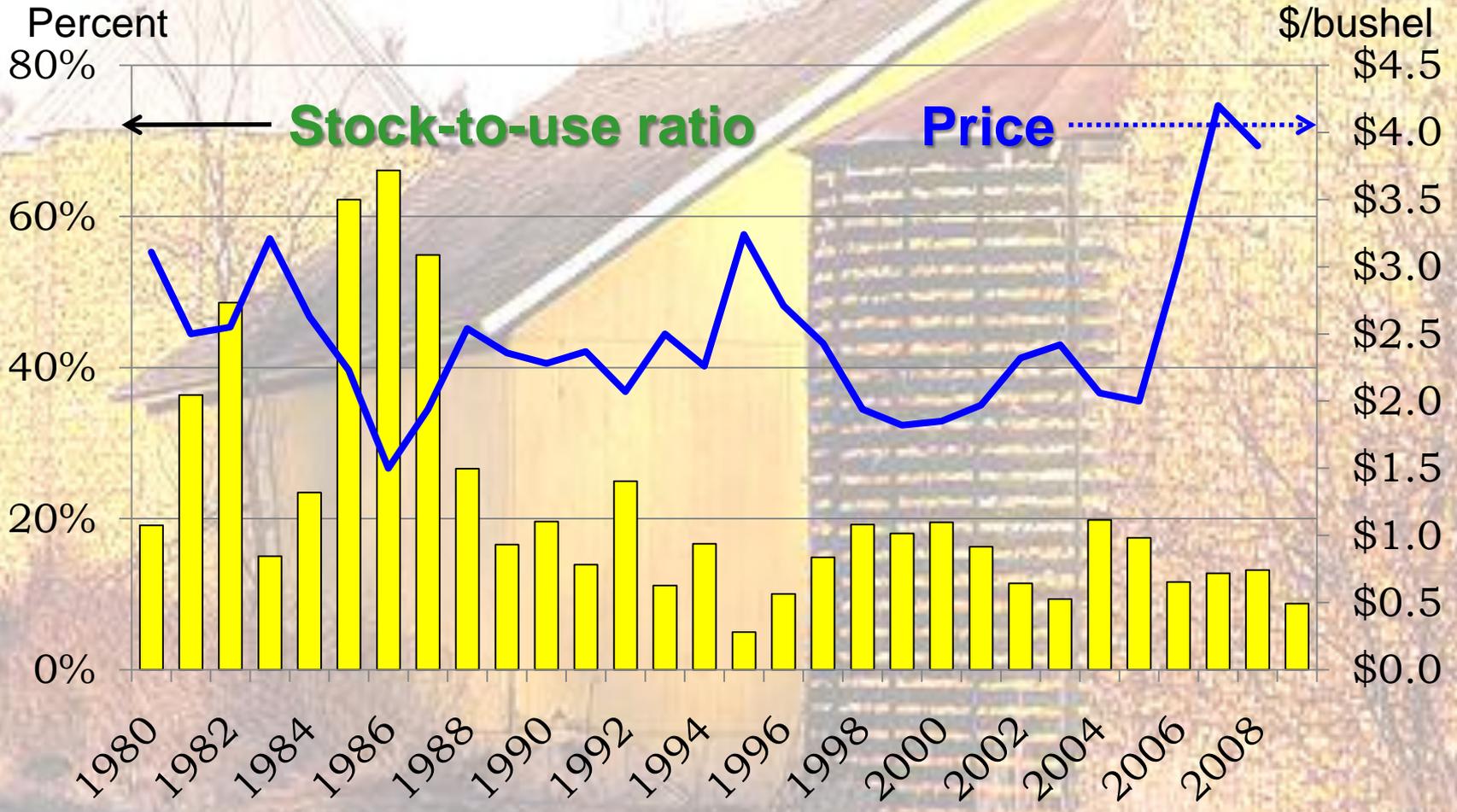
Two Pillars to the Economy



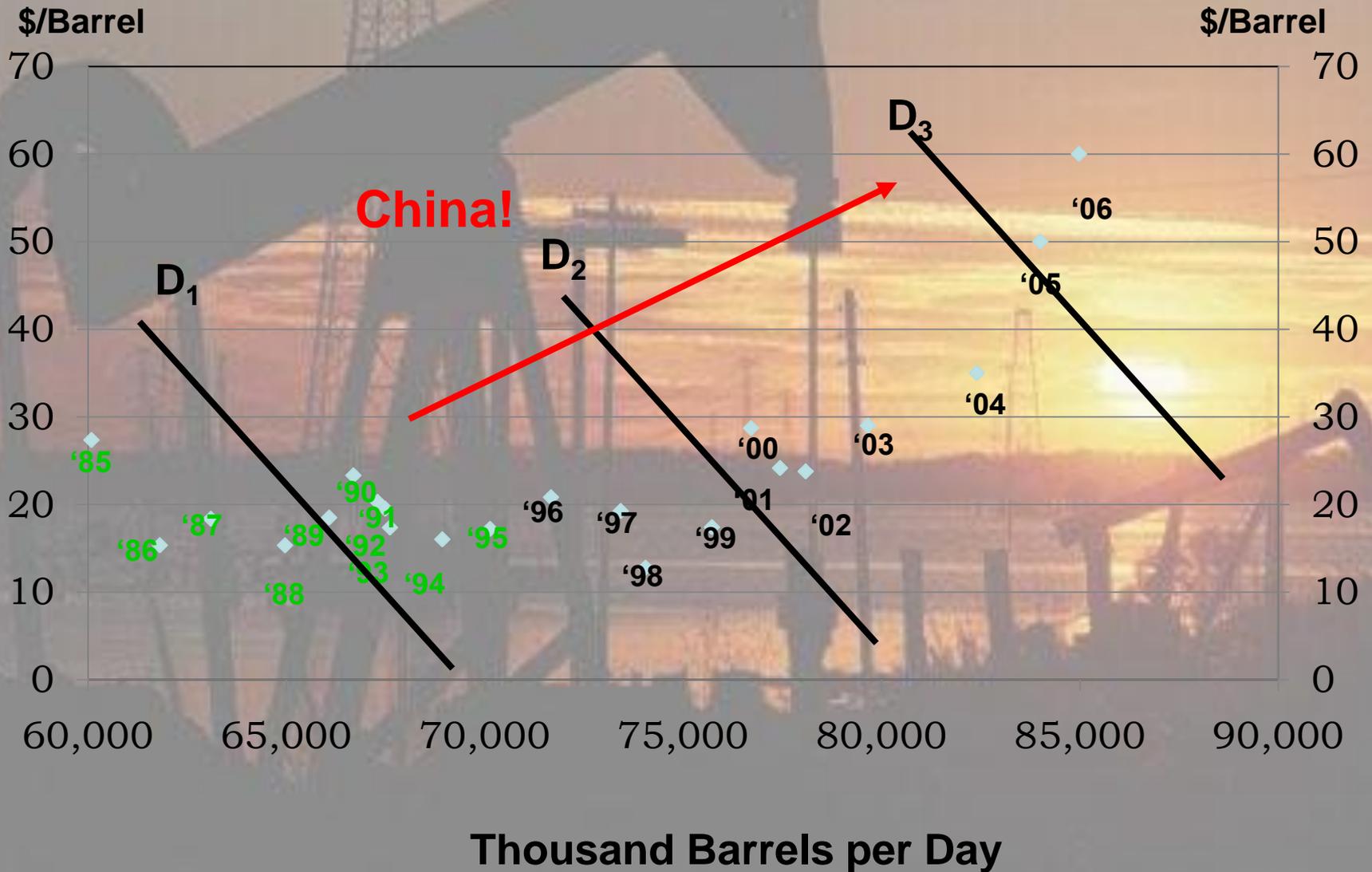
Scarcity

Insatiable
Wants

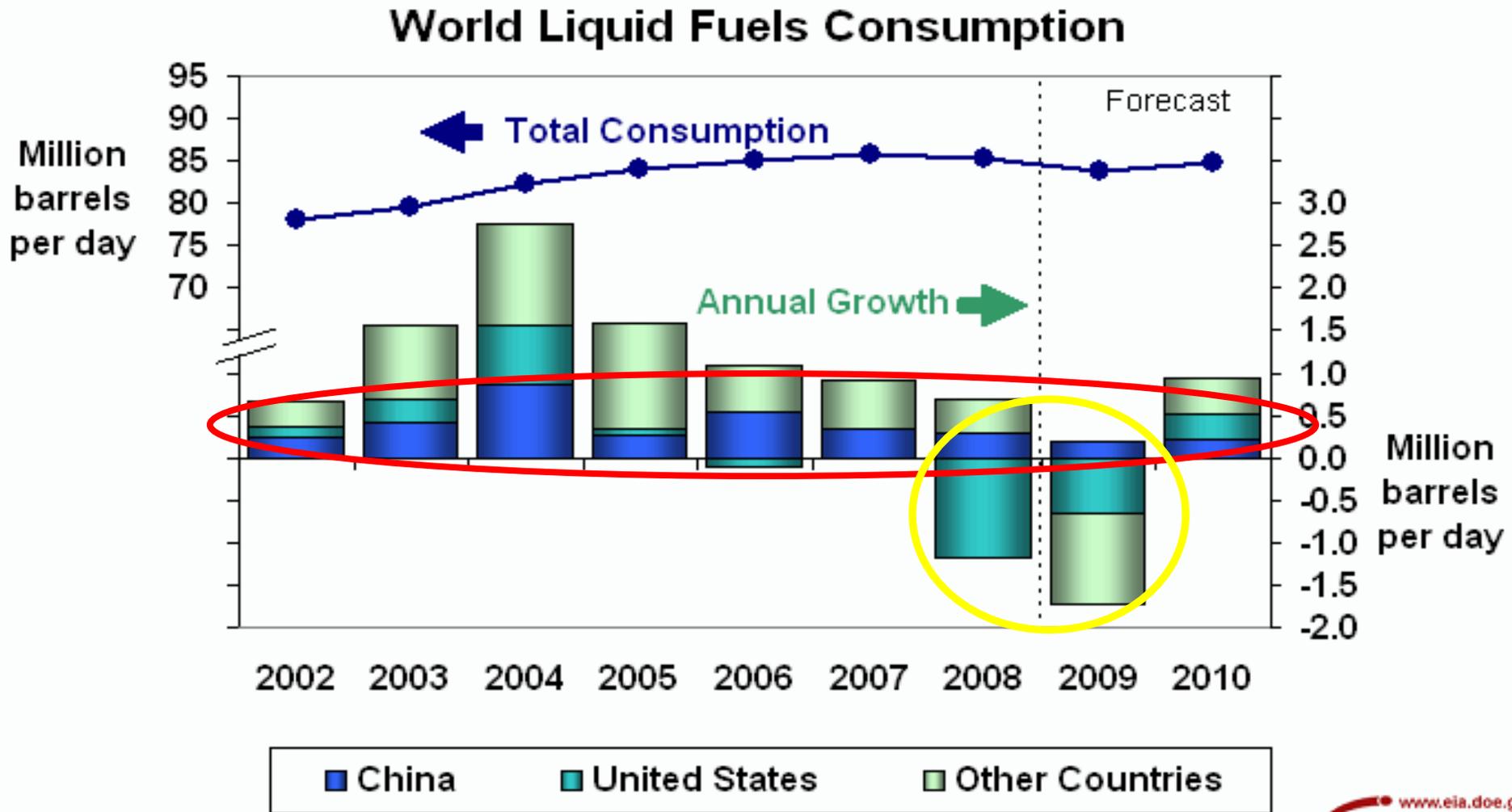
Corn Prices Go Up When Stocks are Low

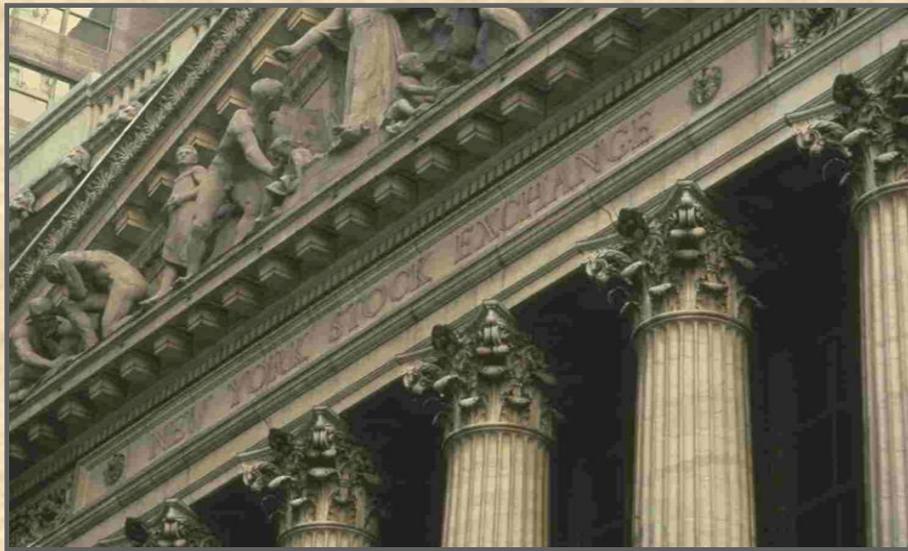


World Demand for Oil



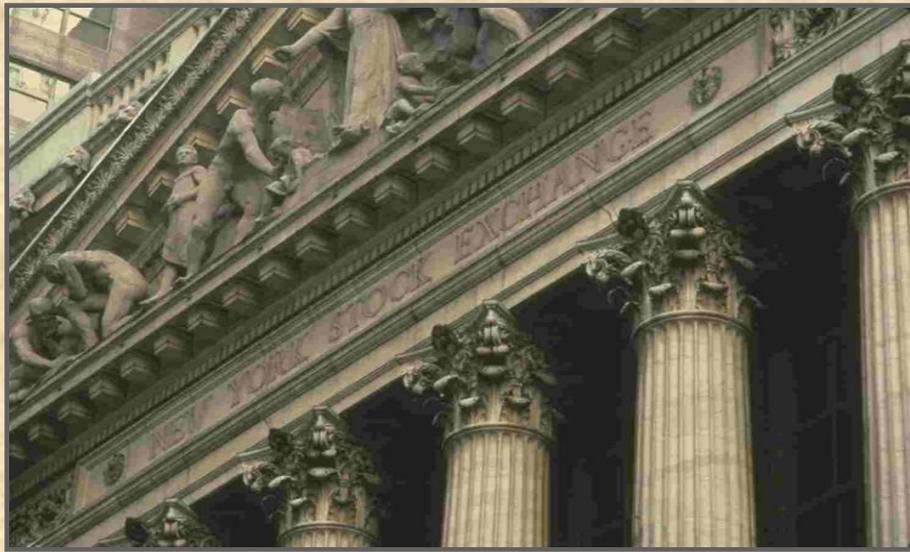
The Global Downturn has dampened global demand... But China is still consuming more!





Scarcity & Want have a huge impact on our society.

- **“They’re going fast....get yours now!”**
- **“You could own the only one in your neighborhood!”**
- **“We can’t give you a raise this year...the CEO got one instead.”**



**Often with nasty
side effects.**

- Selfishness
- Greed
- Cut-throat competition
- Win/Lose tactics

Spiritual Economics 101



- There is no supply and demand—in fact, no currency.
- It is a “Kingdom Economy” – overseen by an all-powerful ruler.
- There is *always* more to go around.
- Your wants will be filled, *completely filled, all the time!*

An ABUNDANCE Economy

"Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:5-6 RSV



An ABUNDANCE Economy



"I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt ... and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and **broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.**

Ex. 3:7-8 RSV

The Lesson of Egypt was to prepare them — and us!— for this new economy.



7 years of plenty ...



Turned into 7 years
of want.

And Israel found plenty only through
the guiding hand of Joseph ...
And the leadership of Joshua.

An ABUNDANCE Economy



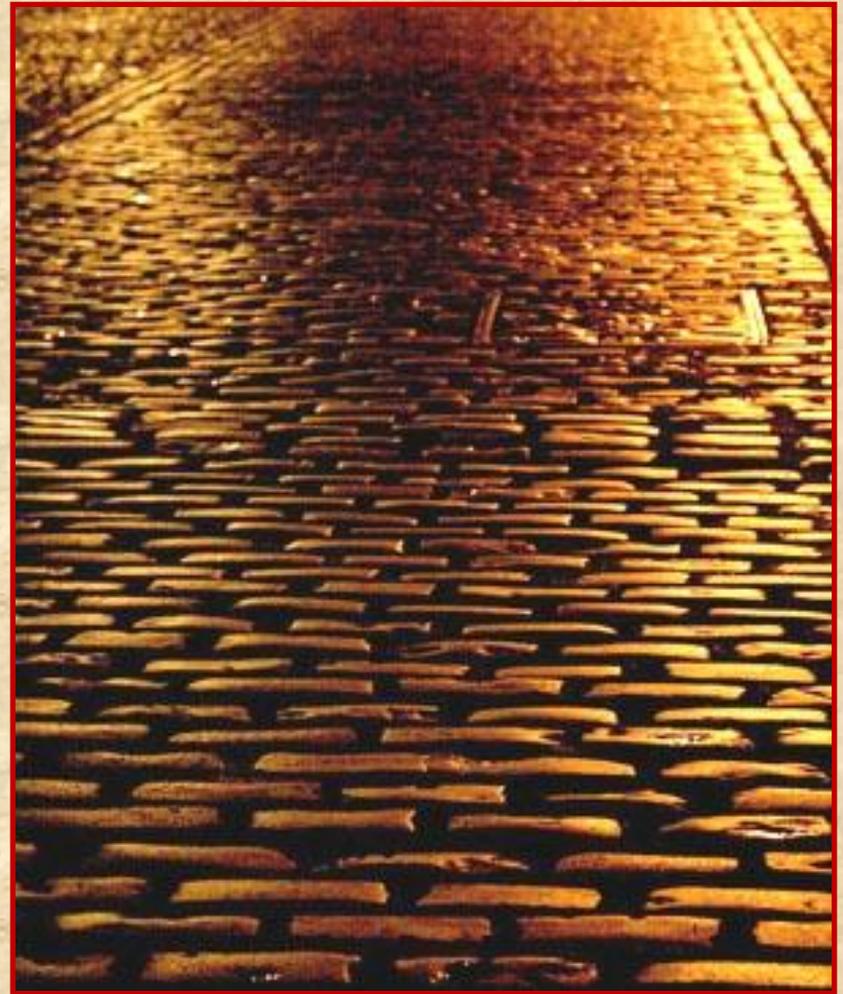
We came to the land to which
you sent us; *it flows with milk
and honey, and this is its fruit.*

Num 13:27 RSV

An ABUNDANCE Economy

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

Rev 21:21 RSV



In the spiritual economy, one commodity is more abundant than all others.



Because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the **abundance of grace** and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:17 RSV

In the spiritual economy, one commodity is more abundant than all others.



Law came in, to increase the trespass; but where sin increased, **grace abounded all the more**, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 5:20-21 RSV

In the spiritual economy, one commodity is more abundant than all others.



The kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us ... which He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior .

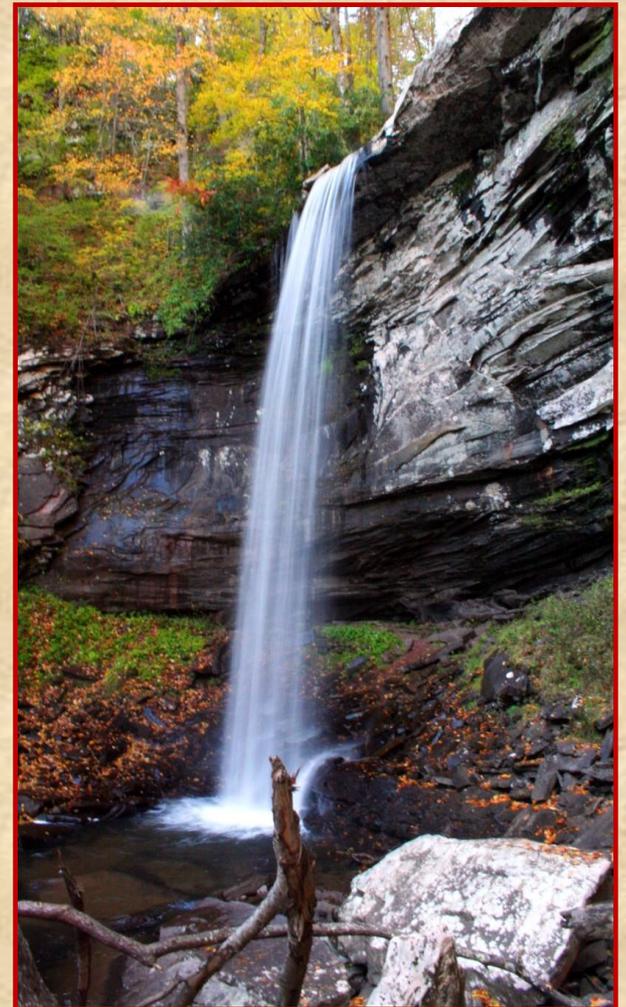
Tit. 3:4-6 RSV

In the spiritual economy, one commodity is more abundant than all others.

And the grace of our Lord was **exceedingly abundant***, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim 1:14 NKJV

huperpleonazo (5250): to super-abound

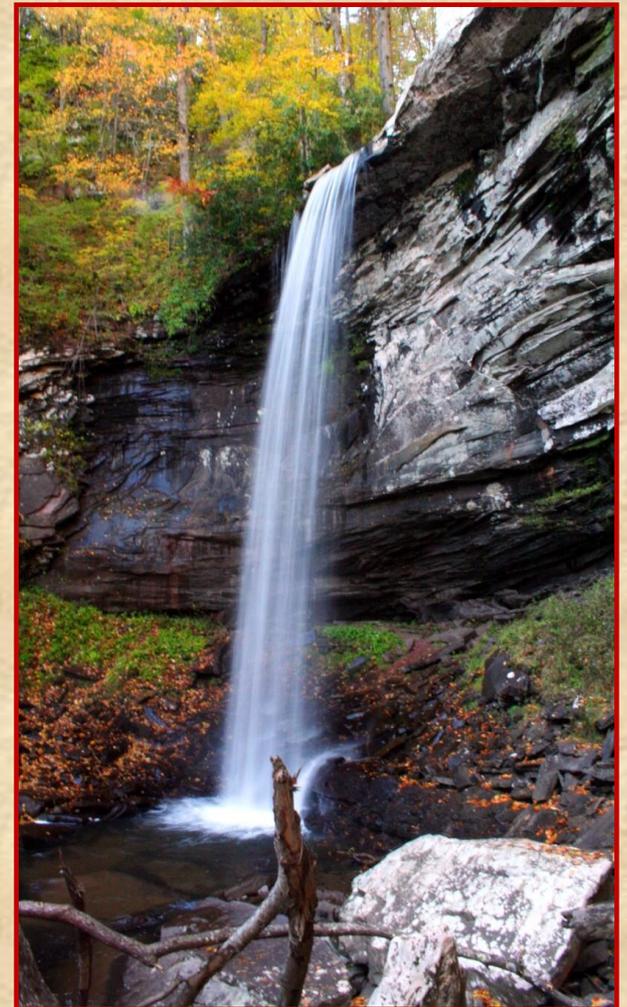


In the spiritual economy, one commodity is more abundant than all others.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to **the riches of his grace which he lavished*** upon us.

Eph 1:7-8 RSV

perisseuo (4520): to cause to super-abound



Spiritual Economics 101

Contentment overtakes want.

Give, and it will be given
to you; good measure,
pressed down, shaken
together, **running over**,
will be put into your lap.

Luke 6:38 RSV



huperekchunoo (5420): to pour out beyond measure; to overflow

Spiritual Economics 101

Contentment overtakes want.

17 As for the **rich** in this world, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on **uncertain riches** but on God who **richly*** furnishes us with everything to enjoy.

1 Tim. 6:17 RSV



plousios (4145): abounding; abundantly supplied

Spiritual Economics 101

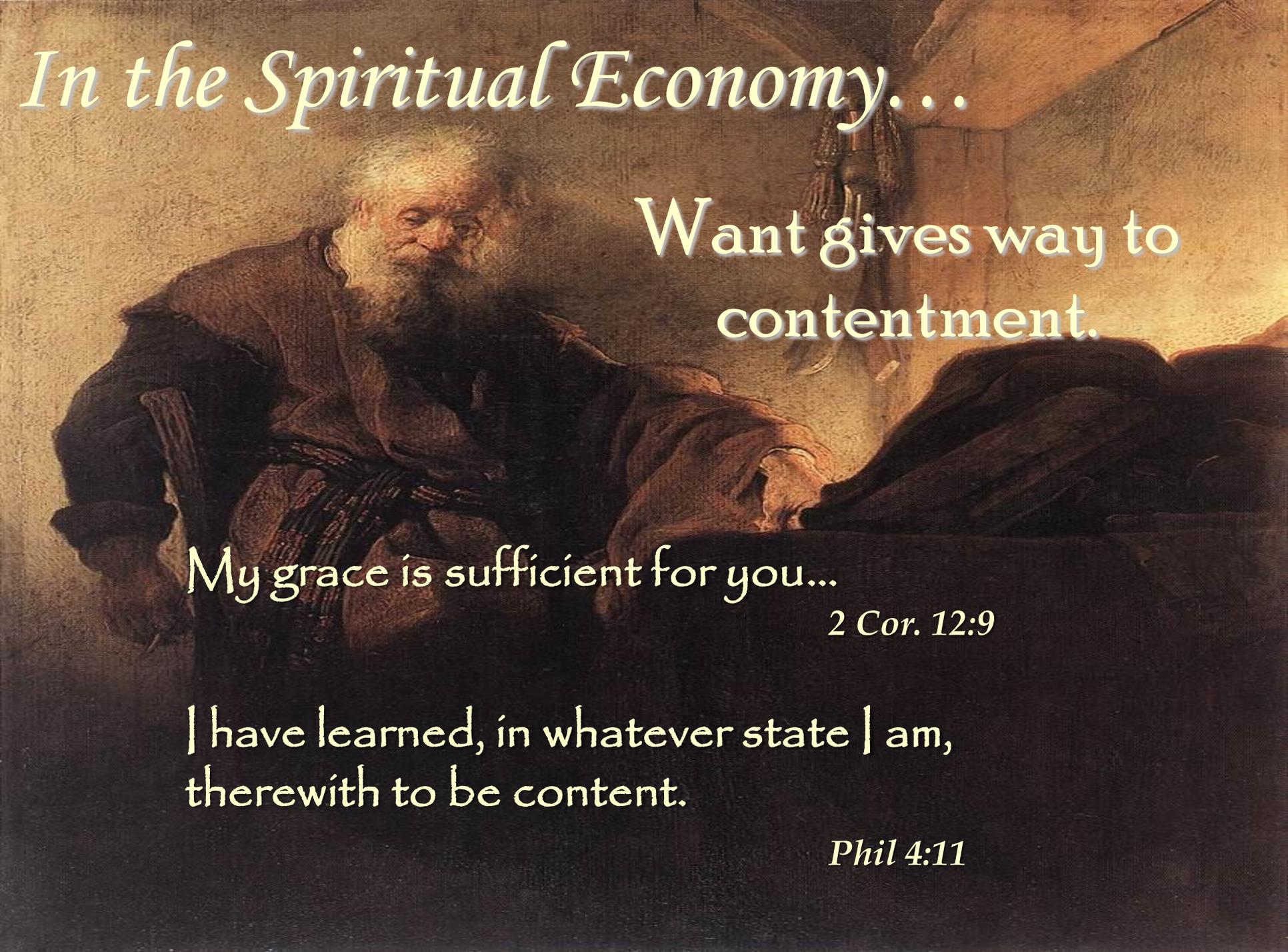
Contentment overtakes want.

The immeasurable
riches* of his grace in
kindness toward us in
Christ Jesus

Eph 2:7 RSV



ploutos (4149): from pletho (4130), to fill literally or figuratively



In the Spiritual Economy...

Want gives way to
contentment.

My grace is sufficient for you...

2 Cor. 12:9

I have learned, in whatever state I am,
therewith to be content.

Phil 4:11

Natural & Spiritual Economics: Different Principles—SAME world.



Does one give way to
the other?



Or do we get them
mixed up?

Scarcity or Abundance Thinking?



Matthew 14

This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves. (v. 15)

✓ Scarcity

Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat. (v. 16)

✓ Abundance

They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish" (v. 17)

✓ Scarcity

Scarcity or Abundance Thinking?



Matthew 14

Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. (v. 18-19)

✓ Abundance

And they all ate and were satisfied. (v. 20)

✓ Abundance

And they took up **twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.** 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. (v. 20-21)

✓ **Super-Abundance**

Scarcity or Abundance Thinking?

1 Kings 17



Arise, go to Zar'ephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you. (v. 9)

✓ **Abundance**

...[Elijah] he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."
..."Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."
(v. 10-11)

✓ **Abundance**

As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die. (v. 12)

✓ **Scarcity**

Scarcity or Abundance Thinking?

1 Kings 17



Fear not; go and do as you have said; but **first make me a little cake** of it and bring it to me, and **afterward** make for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, 'The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.' (v. 13-14)

✓ **Abundance**

She went and did as Elijah said (v. 15)

✓ **Abundance**

She, and he, and her household ate for **many** days. (v15)

✓ **Abundance**

The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail (v. 16).

Day by day, do we live
by the principles of...



Are we citizens of the natural or spiritual economies...or both?

Scarcity Thinking?



Abundance Thinking?



Natural economy ... *Or spiritual?*

“We have to preserve the truth.”

Is the truth scarce or abundant?

Do we preserve it?

Or do we share it with others?

Does it matter how we think about this?

Natural economy ... *Or spiritual?*

“We cannot break bread with someone from ‘another fellowship.’”

**Is the Lord’s sacrifice scarce or abundant?
Is our own “grace” limited by sharing it?**

Does it matter how we think about this?

Natural economy ... *Or spiritual?*

“I pray that I may be worthy of the kingdom.”

Will you enter by the skin of your teeth?

Do you have more debt than assets?

Is God’s grace toward you limited?



Does it matter how we think about this?

Scarcity thinking
divides...

*Abundance
thinking
unites!*



The Spiritual Economy

Our Abundant Life



I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more **abundantly**.

John 10:10

Is this now, future or both?

The Spiritual Economy

Our Abundant Life

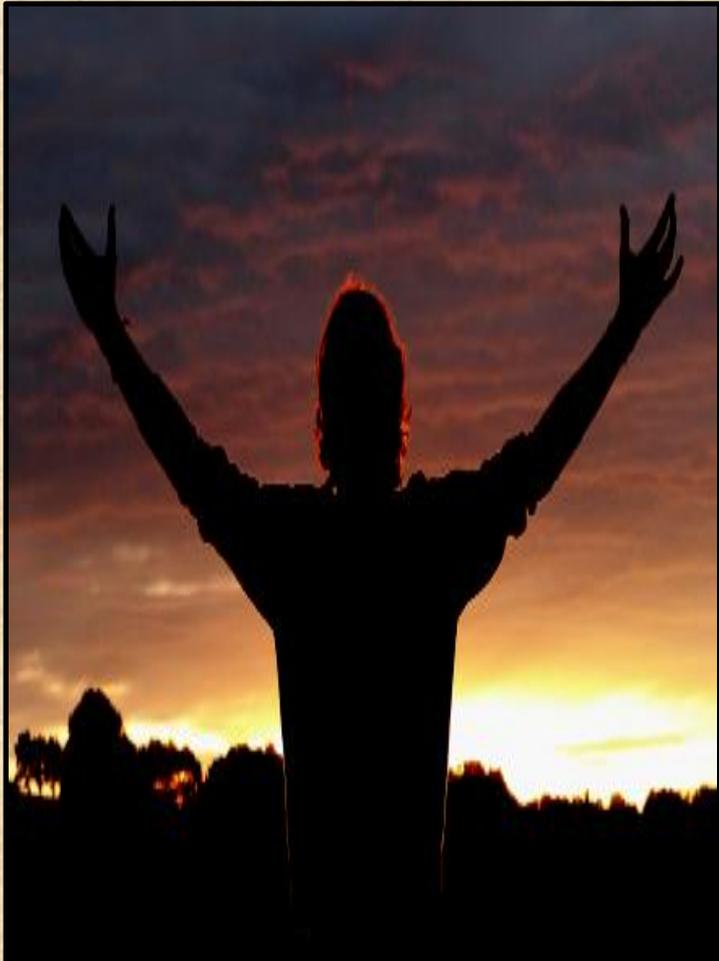


And God is able to make all **grace abound** to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will **abound** in every good work... You will be made **rich in every way** so that you can be **generous** on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Cor. 9:8,11

The Spiritual Economy

Our Abundant Life

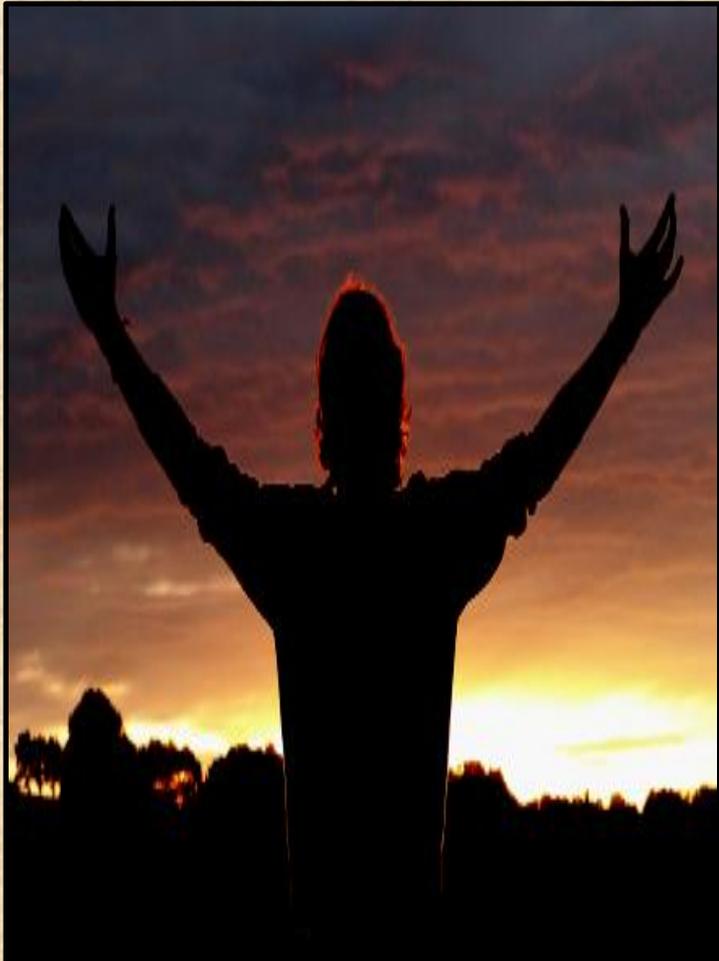


Faith...virtue...knowledge... self-control...steadfastness... godliness...brotherly affection...love. For if these things are yours and **abundant**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

2 Pet. 1:5-9

The Spiritual Economy

Our Abundant Life



If you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Pet. 1:10-11

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