



3/24/26

As I read these passages this week... about the generosity and willingness of people's hearts toward the Lord, I never want to miss how generous and willing He is toward us. Truly, we would have no reason to give if He had not first given so much to us. I guess that makes me think a lot more about His gift to us as we get closer to Easter. The fact that my grandkids wanted to do an Easter egg hunt yesterday helps with that, too. 😊

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Chronicles 29:10-17

In Exodus 35-36, God desired willing hearts that would both generously offer the supplies and their skills to build a temporary tabernacle for the Lord. In 1 Chronicles 29, I read of David celebrating the generous offerings of the people to build the temple of Jerusalem. This came about 450 years after the tent was built. Here's what's so cool from 1 Chronicles 29... In vs. 9 David and the people rejoiced. Why? "Then the people rejoiced because they had given WILLINGLY, for with a WHOLE HEART they had offered FREELY to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly." I think it's awesome that they were celebrating, and I bet God was celebrating, too. I pray that, no matter what it is I am offering to God, I will find joy in giving to Him willingly, with my whole heart, and freely. This is what pleases God... not that I would go through the motions to appease Him or check off a box on my "to do" list, but that I would be wholeheartedly devoted to Him because He is so good to me. Praise His name!

In this passage, I see David speak of WHY He was so filled with joy in freely giving a wholehearted, willing offering to the Lord.

Vs. 10 ~ "Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever."

Therefore, because David was so excited over the generosity of the people in providing for God's temple, which, by the way, David knew he was not allowed to build... David WANTED to build God's temple. The prophet, Nathan, even told him it would be fine when he asked about

building it... but then Nathan had to backtrack because God said that David couldn't build it since there had been so much war while he was king. But God would allow David's son, Solomon, to build it. God did allow David to gather the supplies for its construction. David was so excited over THAT! He never got to see the completion of the temple in his lifetime. He was just so happy to be a part of it! That's genuine devotion... and trust! He trusted that God would keep His word.

David could have pouted and said, "Well if You're not gonna let me build it, I'm just gonna do my own thing and not serve You anymore." Or he could have crawled into a hole and said, "You just don't love me. If You did, You'd let me do this!" The very fact that David provided from his own belongings and celebrated the willingness of the people in their offerings, even knowing that he wouldn't get to see it come to completion shows such a humility before God and deep faith. O Lord, I want to humbly trust You like that!!!

Okay... David blessed the LORD forever and ever. Why the Lord? It's the people who just offered willingly. Shouldn't they get the credit? David is about to explain why God gets the credit.

Vs. 11-13 ~ "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name."

Why thank God and praise HIS glorious name? Everything in the heavens and in the earth belongs to Him. All greatness, power, glory, victory, and majesty come from the LORD. Nothing comes from me. HE is exalted over all and HIS Kingdom rules over all. Riches and honor come from Him. And HE rules over all. He is the one who GIVES power and strength to us. Everything centers around Him. Everything comes from Him. Everything is fueled by Him.

Do I understand this? I don't even breathe unless the Lord supplies my breath. He is absolutely in charge. He is the epitome of all power and majesty and wisdom and wealth! It is when I think I can have any of that apart from Him that my praise becomes pride and my worship turns to SELF. O Lord, I have NOTHING apart from You. When I offer anything to You I'm offering from what already belongs to You. You could demand it. It's already Yours. But You don't. You celebrate WILLING, DEVOTED hearts.

Father, please open the eyes of my heart and help me to see YOU. It's when I fix my eyes on You that everything else fall into place. I don't have to muster up emotion to make myself worship You "as I should." When I fix my eyes on You, worship comes freely. Help me to find security in knowing that Your Kingdom rules above all... that because You are so strong and victorious, I don't have to worry. Your word says in 1 Corinthians 15:57 that You "GIVE ME THE VICTORY THROUGH JESUS." You don't hoard Your goodness for Yourself. You share it... and then You don't even demand that I give back. You want me to give with a willing heart. Amazing.

Vs. 14-15 ~ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. For we are strangers before You and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding."

Wow. I can see why God was so merciful toward David even with the way he horribly sinned against Him. He was repentant... and he was humble. Truly, repentance cannot come without humility. Pride blinds us from even seeing our need for God.

David said, "Who are we, that we should be allowed to willingly give to You? Everything comes from You. We're giving You what You already own. We don't even own this land where our feet walk and we live. This country is not ours. It's Yours. Our days on earth are numbered." I need that mindset. I have nothing to offer God unless God first puts it in my hands. Let me never hold so tightly to what I think I own that I resent God or withhold from Him as though it doesn't already belong to Him. It's all Yours, Lord. Who am I, that You would be so generous with me and give me the choice to freely give to You what You already own?

I celebrate that this world is not my home. You are so generous that what I offer to You here on earth is nothing compared to the incredible home I have waiting for me in heaven. This is ALL Your generous, willing, loving, freely giving heart toward me. I cannot out give You.

Vs. 16-17 ~ "O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building You a house for Your holy name comes from Your hand and is all Your own. I know, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen Your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to You."

Everything I offer the Lord, even my breath, is from His holy hand. While David and his people were celebrating the supplies that God had provided to build His temple, I celebrate that, through Jesus, God has MADE ME His temple! I am the temple of the Holy Spirit because of God's abundant provision through the blood of Jesus.

Does God test my heart? Yes... not to condemn me but to grow my faith so that I can be humble before Him AND receive MORE of His goodness. He takes pleasure in growing my righteousness... that must come through testing. The offering of my life I'm called to give freely comes as my righteousness grows. The more my righteousness grows, the more I take joy in freely offering myself to the Lord. O Lord, my desire is to have a willing, devoted heart that freely offers myself to You in any way You choose, understanding that even my faith is a gift from You. I pray that I will be so in love with You that I hold absolutely nothing back... because You are holy, righteous, generous, powerful, majestic, and victorious... and You even give me the victory. So as it says in 1 Corinthians 15:58, after praising You that You give the victory, I pray that I will be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

knowing that in the Lord my labor is not in vain." Blessed be the Lord!