

Biblical Foundations

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

—1 Chronicles 29:11–16 NIV

King David had the privilege of leading the nation of Israel in making plans and gathering resources for the building of the temple in Jerusalem. He assembled the nation and invited the people to give generously to the work after leading the way with his own personal sacrificial giving. The people gave in abundance. They gave cheerfully, and with hearts of devotion.

The need was great. But so was the supply. And the people were overwhelmed. David reflected the heart of the nation when he cried to God in praise. He was humbled at the great privilege to participate in God's plan.

David was quick to acknowledge God's ownership of all and His provision of all good things. Accordingly, David expressed his amazement. While the people gave generously, it was God's wealth to begin with. And yet, even though they were returning to God what was already His, they experienced great blessing. They deserved nothing out of the process. But they gained tremendous joy.

What happens when we give to God? He doesn't get anything that wasn't already His to begin with. But He gets willing hearts, an engaged people, and tremendous pleasure from our involvement. And we, the givers, are blessed with a joy that far outweighs the monetary value of the gift. The end result, as was the case with King David and the Israelites, is thanksgiving and praise to our Almighty God.

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