

Does God See My Heart When I Give? 1 Chronicles 29:6-22

Introduction:

1. Sometimes, when we do good things for others, our motives may not be completely pure. Can you imagine if the other person could see your heart? Imagine if, every time you did something nice for your wife, she could see your heart, and **why** you are doing it. Scary thought?
 - You take her out to a nice dinner, just the two of you. But imagine her being able to see right down into your heart, and see that you are doing it to get on her good side because you secretly ordered the NFL package that week.
2. We have learned that, all throughout history, God has always noticed those who give to Him. But here is the shocker. God not only notices the gift, but He also sees the attitude of the heart when we give. He knows **what** we give, **why** we give, and **how** we give.
3. God cares about our giving because He cares about His relationship with us. When a believer gives to the Lord with a right heart, this reveals our love for the Lord, and it is very special to Him.
4. When we give, and God looks down into our heart, what does God desire to see? Here in our text, the people of Israel gave sacrificially to make possible the building of the temple. Verse 9 says they gave with a "*perfect heart*." How special this is to God.
5. How can we give to the Lord with a perfect heart?

First, when we give willingly rather than grudgingly

1. Keep in mind, the people are giving so that God's temple can be constructed. I want you to notice something about their giving. Let's read some verses, and you tell me the key word in these verses. vs. 6, 9, 14, 17
2. The key word, of course, is "*willingly*." This simply means that the people gave voluntarily, or eagerly. Nobody had to twist their arm and coerce them to give.
3. This is so precious to God, when He sees us giving because we love Him, and because we love His work, and we truly **want** to give.
4. This was true in the Old Testament, but it is also true today. Notice 2 Corinthians 9:7. God desires that we give because it is something we have purposed in **our own** heart. He loves it when our giving comes from deep inside of us.
 - The opposite of "willingly" would be "grudgingly" (we do it, but we're not happy) or we give of necessity (we do it because we feel like we have to).
5. The Macedonian believers are a great example of giving to the Lord willingly (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). What was the key to their godly attitude? They first gave their own selves to the Lord. vs. 5
6. Giving wasn't an issue for these people, because their attitude was, "I belong to God, which means everything I possess belongs to God."

Second, when we give joyfully rather than bitterly

1. These people gave willingly to the Lord (vs. 6-8). So, what did their giving produce internally (vs. 9)? They rejoiced with great joy! It reminds me of the verse we read earlier from 2 Corinthians 9:7, “...for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
2. Why would God love a cheerful giver? It is simply because there is no way to give **cheerfully** unless you give **willingly**, and it is that willingness and desire to give that God loves to see. It warms God’s heart when He sees this heart attitude in His children.
 - Have you ever felt like somebody was giving you a gift or buying you a meal at a restaurant because they felt obligated? How did that make you feel?
 - This is how God feels when He looks into our hearts and doesn’t see us truly rejoicing when we give to Him.
3. Think about our Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave His life willingly on the cross for us – for our sins (John 10:15, 18). What did His giving produce? It produced joy (Hebrews 12:2), because Christ didn’t give grudgingly.
4. Giving always produces joy when it is done with a right heart. Self-centeredness always produces misery, but giving is such a Christ-centered thing. This is why there is such a blessedness and joy in giving.

Third, when we give thankfully rather than selfishly

1. This is Thanksgiving weekend. If anybody should be thankful, it is a Christian who has been saved from his or her sins by Jesus Christ! Christ has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
2. Our motive in giving should be the incredible grace that Christ has poured into our lives. 2 Corinthians 8:9
3. In 1 Chronicles 29, the people gave so willingly and cheerfully. But notice why:
 - They realized that everything in heaven and earth ultimately belongs to God. vs. 11
 - Therefore, everything they possessed came from God. vs. 12
 - What is our logical response? Thankfulness that God has allowed us to use that which He created and belongs to Him. vs. 13
 - It is our thankfulness that produces a desire to return gifts back to Him. vs. 16
4. This is how we can give so willingly. It is because we realize that, without God, we wouldn’t have anything anyway!
5. The grace giver doesn’t give so that we can get back something better from God. We don’t give to get. We give to express our gratitude and appreciation for all He has done for us.
6. The grace giver gives back to God thankfully because he recognizes that everything he has comes from God.
7. This was King David’s attitude. David basically says, “Lord, how can we **not** give to your work? Everything we possess is because of your goodness and grace.”

In Conclusion:

1. Does God notice our heart when we give? Absolutely, He does. These people gave with a perfect (complete, undivided) heart. They gave wholeheartedly. Giving truly is a heart issue.
2. God loves a grace giver. It brings such joy to His heart when He sees a believer giving willingly, joyfully, and thankfully. When our heart is right with God, we don't give out of guilt, or fear, or selfishness. Giving truly becomes an act of worship. vs. 20-22
3. "God, I realize it is not all about me. It is about You and what You are doing on this earth! All that I have is from You and it is all for Your glory!"