

1 Chronicles 29:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Analysis

David's rhetorical question 'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort?' expresses wonder at the privilege of giving to God. The phrase 'all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee' establishes the theological foundation for Christian stewardship: we give back to God what He first gave us. This eliminates boasting (nothing is truly 'ours') while elevating generosity (we can participate in God's work). The willingness to give reflects God's gracious work in hearts. This principle reaches fullest expression in Christ who gave Himself (2 Corinthians 8:9) and enables our generosity through the Spirit.

Historical Context

Israel's massive gifts for temple construction (gold, silver, bronze, precious stones - see 29:2-9) represented unprecedented generosity. David's prayer interprets this not as human achievement but divine grace enabling willing hearts to participate in sacred work.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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Genesis 32:10 (Parallel theme): I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

2 Samuel 7:18 (Parallel theme): Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

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