

# Deuteronomy 28:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

## Analysis

---

Moses identifies the root cause of judgment: 'Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things.' The issue isn't merely disobedience but attitude—serving God grudgingly or mechanically rather than joyfully. The phrase 'for the abundance of all things' reveals the problem: prosperity led to complacency and ingratitude rather than increased devotion. Joyless religion indicates heart disconnection from God, even when outward forms are maintained.

## Historical Context

---

Israel's history repeatedly demonstrated this pattern—prosperity bred spiritual apathy. Solomon's reign saw material abundance but growing idolatry (1 Kings 11). The pre-exilic prophets condemned formalistic religion lacking genuine devotion (Isaiah 1:10-17; Amos 5:21-24). Jesus warned against serving God for material gain rather than heartfelt love (Matthew 6:24). True worship combines right practice with right heart attitude.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

1. How can prosperity lead to joyless, perfunctory religion rather than grateful devotion?
2. What does God's desire for joyful service reveal about His character and His design for worship?

## Interlinear Text

לֹא	אָשָׁר	תִּתְחַת	עָבֵד דָּתָךְ	אַתָּה	יְהוָה הָיָה	אֱלֹהִים יְהֹוָה
H8478	H834	H3808	<b>Because thou servedst</b>	H853	<b>not the LORD</b>	<b>thy God</b>
			H5647		H3068	H430
בְּשִׂמְחַת הַ	לְבַב וּבְ	מִרְבָּה	כָּל:			
<b>with joyfulness</b>	<b>and with gladness</b>	<b>of heart</b>	<b>for the abundance</b>			
H8057	H2898	H3824	H7230			H3605

## Additional Cross-References

**Deuteronomy 16:11** (References God): And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org