

Capture the Prize TOGETHER

Stretching & Charting the Course

Week 2 October 11-17

*Smart runners know the necessity of stretching those muscles which are about to be tested in strength and endurance. As you consider, pray, and set your personal goal to **Capture the Prize TOGETHER**, here are exercises from God's Word which may help you stretch your imagination, challenge perceptions and increase your understanding of God's expectation of how stewardship is to be practiced.*

QUESTION FOR THIS WEEK:

(take a day and reflect on your current response to this question):

What attitudes does God like to see demonstrated in one's giving?

SECOND DAY, AND THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Reflect on the following verses which reveal attitudes God likes to see

Our attitudes mean everything. On the second day of a spiritual retreat, a volunteer came in to help in the kitchen. The rest of the kitchen crew was exhausted from lack of sleep and hard work. The volunteer started washing pots and pans, and as soon as breakfast was cleaned up, he began to wash the pots from lunch. He worked all the while with a smile on his face. He was asked, "how can you wash dishes all day, and maintain that smile?" He replied, "I'm doing it for the Lord's glory. Not my own, nor yours." What an attitude.

Exodus 25:1-2, - The Lord said to Moses, ² "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give."

Exodus 35:4-5 – "Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the Lord has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver and bronze . . ."

Exodus 20:24 – "Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it."

Exodus 35:29 – "All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do."

I Chronicles 29:17 - "I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you."

I Corinthians 13:3 – "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Now, how do you answer the question of attitudes on giving? Has any "stretching" occurred? Has God spoken to you through His Word?

