

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Even On My Best Day

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"I'll tell you what. Even on my best day, I don't have anything that I can bring to God. I need His strength and wisdom." So says a pastor I was speaking to recently as we discussed counseling issues in the local church. God is vastly superior to me even on my "best day." That is good theology.

My gifts and abilities, my family, and my health are all gifts from God. As I teach or disciple people, it is the Holy Spirit who uses Scripture to change lives (John 16:8). Good theology is always good. But sometimes we take good theology and apply it in areas at the exclusion of other truths. God wants us to be balanced.

For example, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Ps. 24:1, NIV). There is nothing that falls outside of "everything." Everything that I own, the Lord really owns. That is a Bible truth. However, there is another Bible truth that complements it. "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Cor. 9:6, NIV).

Even though I don't have "anything I can bring to God" in terms of wisdom, God wants me to honor and worship Him with everything that I have and am (Matt 22:37). On my best day, I can't out-give God or deserve His grace. But on my worst day, I'm still in Christ and can worship God with my life and everything that I have.

Sometimes we have these truths reversed in our minds. We act as if God could use some of our help in the wisdom category. We think we have a lot to bring to the table in that area. But finances are another issue. We correctly believe that God does not need our money to accomplish His work. But we fail to realize that He asks us to give. We have things that we can bring to the table in this area, but sometimes we choose not to.

This month you will receive your W-2 from your employer and your giving history from your church and other ministries you gave to in 2001. How much did you give in proportion to your income? The average person gives about 2.5% annually. You can choose to increase that percentage in 2002. You can increase your giving starting this Sunday.

What would people say about you on your "best day"? Do you use God's wisdom or your own? Do you give to the Lord or keep for yourself? Honor the Lord with your wisdom and your giving in 2002. It is a great way to worship Him.

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org