

Now that Moses heard the Lord's promise to go with them and give them rest (33:14), the plans to build the Tabernacle could go forward. They could build that space that God had designed for His residence among them. It began with Moses telling the people that the Lord was requesting contributions of all the necessary material and labor from those with "a generous heart". (35:5 ESV) Later on, mandatory minimum amounts would be required from the people to maintain the tabernacle, its functions, and the priests (Numbers 18:21), but the initial space was built from the generosity of the givers. Again, we must remember that it all came from God in the first place. God had told them plunder the Egyptians and made their neighbors favorably disposed to give them all the things they are about to give to God. (Exodus 12:36)

Sometimes we forget that it all comes from God and we begin to get attached to things. Then when the Lord prompts us to give back what He has given us, we start to calculate whether or not we can afford it. We get the mindset that this is all we will ever receive, as if God is stingy. There is a time to store up in prudent wisdom for times of needs such as Joseph directed the Egyptians to do. (Genesis 41:35-36) There is a time to give the very last of your resources as the Zerapheth widow did with Elijah. (1Kings 17:12-14) Only the Spirit of God can direct us as to which is appropriate at the moment. At the time of the passage we are studying, it was a time to give for the tabernacle of God. It was an honor to have given to such a high and holy mission, the residence of God in their midst.

That is how I feel about some of the missions we have given to, the radio tower in Guinea Bissau, Hope Cottage in Flagstaff, finishing up the mission expansion in India among others. What an honor to be a part of reaching so many lives for our Savior. I'm grateful for the careful way we use our resources for the advancement of God's kingdom, that He might dwell in the hearts of many.

When we see the tabernacle, and later the temple, as a picture of the body of Christ (1Corinthians 6:19), with Jesus in our midst, it fits perfectly that the materials came from generous hearts. We are the material for the temple, the living stones (1Peter 2:5), and only those with generous hearts give themselves as material for the dwelling place of God. Of course **it is the work of the Holy Spirit that turns us from selfishness to submission.** We wouldn't naturally give up our own desires and selfish use of our time and possessions unless we cooperated with the Lord working in our hearts. (Philippians 2:13)

We need to see the blessing in the invitation to contribute to what God is doing. The world paints it as something religious people must endure. It emphasizes the abuse of power and finances because the generosity of Christians embarrasses them. They would use abuse of power as a reason not to give.

What happens when you give in response to the Holy Spirit? I'm not talking about guilt giving or giving to get to get something in return. When you respond to the Holy Spirit

Commented [Paul1]: Exodus 33:14 (ESV)
¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Commented [Paul2]: Exodus 35:5 (ESV)
⁵ Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze;

Commented [Paul3]: Numbers 18:21 (ESV)
²¹ "To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting,

Commented [Paul4]: Exodus 12:36 (ESV)
³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Commented [Paul5]: 1 Kings 17:12-14 (ESV)
¹² And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."
¹³ And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son."
¹⁴ For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth."

Commented [Paul6]: 1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV)
¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Commented [Paul7]: 1 Peter 2:4-5 (ESV)
⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Commented [Paul8]: Philippians 2:13 (ESV)
¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

and sacrifice, you accept God's invitation to be a part of what He is doing. He could do it all by Himself, but He graciously includes us. Then He records it and promises to repay you one hundred times. I'm not speaking of the prosperity gospel, but of the promise of Jesus. (Matthew 19:29) The reward may be spiritual or physical, in this life or the next. If you believe the Scriptures, you'll prefer the reward in eternity.

Commented [Paul9]: Matthew 19:29 (ESV)

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

That isn't the motivation for our giving, but it is a reality of obedience to the Holy Spirit. Of course we give because we owe Him everything, but the reward is an expression of God's generosity, generosity that we are to emulate. (2Corinthians 9:9)

Commented [Paul10]: 2 Corinthians 9:9 (ESV)

⁹ As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

²¹ And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. ²² So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart ... They brought all the various materials that God had requested to make the tabernacle according to God's design. Notice the expressions, "everyone whose heart stirred him" and "whose spirit moved him" and "All who were of a willing heart".

Why would our hearts not be stirred and our spirits not be moved? I don't think they had an eternal aspect of the consequences of their giving. They just knew they wanted the benefits of the Lord being among them. But why would someone not be moved? If you have never opened your heart to the wonder of God dwelling in you, it may be that you have believed the old Eden lie, that God is stingy and isn't telling you the whole story. Natural human nature has no desire to sacrifice or submit. It is utterly selfish from birth. (Job 15:14)

Commented [Paul11]: Job 15:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous?

The only real cure for selfishness is Jesus. If we see what He endured for us, if we really try to grasp the generosity of His heart towards us, we can't help but want to be generous to others. His life in us is generous. (Matthew 10:8)

Commented [Paul12]: Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

²⁵ And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. ²⁶ All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. The offerings included labor. The women spun the materials needed. Notice again it was those whose hearts were stirred. That doesn't mean that all who did not spin wool or yarn or linen were hardhearted. Perhaps some had different skills or possessions to offer. We each have our own gifts. When everyone knows their calling and follows the stirring of their heart within God's guidelines, all that is needed comes together.

There was probably someone out cutting stone that was sure the Lord led them to cut the stone even though the Lord had not asked for stone. And there were surely those who couldn't be bothered with the project, for they were "called" to other things. Even before Pentecost, some of the congregation of Israel in the wilderness were sure that they heard from God that they should take Moses' or Aaron's place. (Numbers 16:13) That is just the nature of humanity. Those who will be blessed are those who let the Holy Spirit stir them to participate in what God is doing. We all have a way to participate whether with material blessings or labor.

Commented [Paul13]: Numbers 16:13 (ESV)

¹³ Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us?

²⁹ *All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.* Whether labor or materials, it was all a freewill offering. The command was through Moses as to the design and substance. In other words, they weren't commanded to bring it, they were just told of the opportunity to participate. We occasionally have the same type of offering. We present a need and ask you to give as your heart stirs you. We took one recently for Mac and Jory and it will help pay a portion of their return flight.

A freewill offering is different from the tithes that the Law will demand shortly after the building of the tabernacle. Today, we are not under the Law. (Romans 6:14) The tithe is a good starting point, but we should be filled with the Spirit and be led by Him as to what to give. Paul took a freewill offering from the churches in Asia for the poor of the church in Jerusalem during a famine. (1Corinthians 16:1-2)

³⁰ *Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; ³¹ and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship,* God called people by name to be the overseers of the main craftsman and artisans. They were artists overseeing other artists that crafted beautiful things for Gods glory. That is the work of every believing artist, glorifying God with their gift of artistic ability. From this passage we can see a number of insights into the call of God on our lives. First, not everyone is called to the same ministry. Pastors often speak of the time they were "called". We don't encourage anyone to enter a certain ministry unless they are called and the passage tells us why.

God filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God and all the practical skills and knowledge to do what God had called him to do. **When God calls a person, he equips them for the job.** The equipping may come through a time of training with another leader just as Joshua was experiencing with Moses. (Exodus 33:11) It may be sudden and supernatural as with Bezalel, but one thing we can be sure, God provides the equipping for those He calls. He doesn't expect you to do it with your natural talent or efforts. He expects you to rely upon Him and His equipping of you for the call He places on your life. (1Corinthians 12:11)

^{36:1} *"Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded."* He called two particular men to oversee and to do the work, but he also called many others to assist. The Lord gave many people the skill and intelligence to help. The New Testament calls this the gift of helping. (1Corinthians 12:28) This is the most needed gift and so it is the most common gift. Doesn't that make sense? It isn't that the two men that were named were any more special than all the others. They were doing what they were called to do. All the other craftsmen were doing what they were called to do. All are necessary. **What is**

Commented [Paul14]: Romans 6:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

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¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Commented [Paul16]: Exodus 33:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door.

¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Commented [Paul17]: 1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV)

¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Commented [Paul18]: 1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

special is faithfulness to carry out your call as the Lord commands. Faithfulness is what the Lord rewards. (Matthew 25:21)

We are blessed with many servants in this church. Our trustees have been a special blessing to me this year. They just quietly go about doing all the work around the church that needs to be done, and there is a lot to do in a building this old. That frees me to do what the Lord has called me to do. When we all do what God has called us to do, we are the most effective for the Kingdom of God.

God didn't call and equip me to counsel people like Pastor Ed does. We can all encourage one another but if you really need some serious counseling, you don't want to come to me. I'm sure that when Ed counsels people he senses that supernatural insight that God has equipped him with, just as I feel it when I prepare or preach the sermon each week. (Ephesians 3:7)

² And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. ³ And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, Everyone brought the gifts to Moses and he distributed them to the craftsmen. After all, Moses was the only one that had seen the heavenly model and knew what had to go where. Every morning the gifts would come pouring in. God was still stirring hearts!

Have you noticed how many times in our passage today the repetition of the phrase "heart stirred"? When the Bible repeats a phrase that often, it is of great importance. This is all getting done because God is stirring the hearts and the people are responding to that stirring in one accord at God's direction through His appointed leader.

I love to see when the Lord stirs us all in one accord, givers, craftsmen, overseers, helpers and God does something none of us could do on our own. (1Corinthians 12:7) The Tabernacle was a project like that. I'm referring to the Tabernacle Project that the churches here came together on. There was inspiration, skill, divine appointments and a 1000 people heard the gospel. Now it is on its way to Buckeye.

Eventually the craftsmen had to tell Moses that they had more than enough to do the job. That is a sign that God is in something. When God guides, He stirs the hearts and there is no begging and pleading or twisting of arms. His people are excited to participate in what He is doing.

⁵ and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do." ⁶ So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." They brought much more than enough. What a blessing when people cooperate with the stirring of God in their heart! There is more than enough provision, and God's work goes forward. I don't know of any church that ever told the congregation they were giving too much. It seems it is always the other way around. We always have more needs than we can meet or more plans than there are

Commented [Paul19]: Matthew 25:21 (ESV)

²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Commented [Paul20]: Ephesians 3:7 (ESV)

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

Commented [Paul21]: 1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

extra funds. I thank the Lord that surplus at Wayside is set aside for future building needs, and for special mission works that can really make a difference. (Philippians 4:17)

So the people were restrained from bringing, ⁷ for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more. And I would say that has been true of this church up until July of this year. This particular passage falling on this day is another God incident. I could never have planned it and was amazed again when I saw it land on the day we were to present next year's budget. Every year we have increased in attendance and giving until this year.

So we might ask ourselves, is the vision of Wayside no longer the vision from God so that hearts are no longer stirred to give? Or are we allowing our hearts to be hardened so that we are not giving as we should? Or is it something else? (Joel 1:13)

Let me share with you our vision and you can decide for yourself what the problem might be. Please, I encourage you to look inward, not outward, and simply ask the Lord if you are responding to His stirring. If you are, great! (Luke 6:38) Thank you for being a part of what happens at Wayside. If not, don't miss the blessing! I have no doubt that it is of God.

First and foremost we desire Wayside Bible Chapel to be a safe place to hear the Word taught faithfully and without compromise. It's all about Jesus and He is revealed in the Word. Wayside has taken the vision statement of "Knowing Christ and making Him known." (Colossians 1:9-10) That comes through the study of the Scriptures and walking with Him daily. We want to continue to equip you to do that and improve that this coming year. We make Him known through our life and our witness. We want to continue to help you with life transformation so others can see Jesus in you.

Wayside has always had a love for missions. While we will cut many areas of the budget, missions will remain over 20% of our total. In America souls trickle in here and there, but revival is taking place in the third world. I'll share with you the struggles of the missions we support in the budget meeting. We don't want give less because they are tightening their belt even more drastically than we are and some are considering closing.

Our desire is to be a body of believers that truly loves one another so that others will know we are Jesus' disciples. (John 13:35) Love is telltale mark of a genuine church. This is the focus of the coming year, increasing in the love of Christ for one another. We have always counted on God and not man to stir hearts and we will continue to do that. You don't hear a yearly tithing sermon; we just go through the Scriptures and let them speak to us.

God stirred Israel to give for a place to dwell among them. Today in a much greater way, we have the opportunity to give so that He might dwell in the hearts of many. What a gracious God who invites us to give back to Him what we have received to

Commented [Paul22]: Philippians 4:17 (ESV)
¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

Commented [Paul23]: Joel 1:13 (ESV)
¹³Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar. Go in, pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God! Because grain offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.

Commented [Paul24]: Luke 6:38 (ESV)
³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Commented [Paul25]: Colossians 1:9-10 (ESV)
⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Commented [Paul26]: Luke 6:38 (ESV)
³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

advance His goodness in the earth and be blessed in return. (Nehemiah 9:10) I'm excited about the giving opportunities and ministries we'll have in the coming year. If they are of God, He'll stir our hearts.

Commented [Paul27]: Nehemiah 9:20 (ESV)

²⁰ You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.

Questions

- 1 How did the people know what to give?
- 2 Why did the people give?
- 3 What were the offerings called?
- 4 From where did the craftsmen get their ability?
- 5 Who directed the work?
- 6 Who else helped?
- 7 What problem did the craftsmen encounter? Why?
- 8 Describe the balance between vision and gifts.
- 9 What is the vision of Wayside Bible Chapel?
- 10 Why is today another Godincident?