

Is It All Mine?

As we grow in our career typically our salary grows with our experience. Hopefully, we are able to put money aside for retirement so that we can stop working at some point. Financial planners help us in that process. If the conditions are right we can be successful in planning for a comfortable future. After all, it is what we have worked for all our life.

There are many people who have not had a productive career. Perhaps academics weren't their strong suit. They may not have had the education to put them on a career path that paid well. Perhaps, through no fault of their own, they didn't have the opportunity to build a career. Or, maybe family circumstances caused a person to drop out of school to support the family paycheck-to-paycheck. The conditions were not right for them and they never achieved financial security.

Often people who have been fortunate to be on a productive track take too much credit for their own prosperity. If we "flatter ourselves that our assets are the result of our work, it leads us to believe any lack of such assets must be the result of laziness." (Quote from Tim Keller's book, God's Wisdom for Navigating Life.) Keller went on to point out the example of King David. David achieved his wealth through both risk and effort, but he credited it as a gift of God's grace. *"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand (2 Chronicles 29:14).*

We should, too. God gifted us with the opportunity and circumstances to give us the capability to help others. Instead of comparing our results to others less fortunate, let us emulate the heart of Jesus and serve the less fortunate. We who are blessed by God can share our heavenly blessings with those in need. God didn't give us riches to hoard. He gave them to empower us to help others.

The poor need our help. We are not rich unless we find ways to help those in need. The opportunities to do so are limitless. Volunteering is a way of giving of our selves to help others. There are many credible organizations that do their best to use charitable support to meet basic needs. We can also be a source of encouragement to those who are motivated by our caring attitude. Why did God choose you to be blessed? How do you choose to use those blessings to help others?



God hears the call for help and, following His example, so should we. *This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles (Psalm 34:6).*

Question: How are you helping the less fortunate?

Prayer: Most gracious Heavenly Father. We thank you for the many blessing you have shared with us so that we are in a position to share them with others. Amen.