

Doing What We Can (Devotional)

David writes in Psalm 132:1-10,

- 1 O LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured.**
- 2 He swore an oath to the LORD and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:**
- 3 "I will not enter my house or go to my bed –**
- 4 I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids,**
- 5 till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."**
- 6 We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:**
- 7 "Let us go to His dwelling place; let us worship at His footstool-**
- 8 arise, O LORD, and come to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might.**
- 9 May Your priests be clothed with righteousness; may Your saints sing for joy."**
- 10 For the sake of David Your servant, do not reject Your anointed one."**

It would be interesting to see what people would say the greatest goal and driving ambition of their lives would be. For some, it would be money, or power, or maybe a new job promotion. For others it might be a new house or a new car, or maybe even finding their soul mate, their true love. Would you be surprised to learn that what drove King David most of all was his dream to build a house for God, to construct the Temple for the Lord so His people could worship Him? David admits such in this psalm we just read. Would it not be wonderful if more people had this same type of dream? I am not talking about building God a Temple or a house, for as Stephen says while quoting from Isaiah 66:1, **"the Most High dwells not in houses made with hands"** for as the prophet of old quoted God, **"The Heaven is My throne, and the Earth the footstool of My feet:"** (Acts 7:48-49). What dream I am referencing is that of being a builder, and not a destroyer, the desire to be an encourager, and not one who nit-picks and tears down others.

David was not allowed to build the Temple of God because for most of his life, David was a soldier, a warrior. He was called upon, selected and raised up by God to defend the people of Israel from her enemies. Through his efforts David brought about peace in the land. But our God is a God of peace (Romans 15:33), so although He was grateful that David wanted to build Him a Temple, it was God's desire that His Temple would be built by a man of peace, and King Solomon, David's son, was given this task of building the Lord's Temple. David was disappointed when he learned that he was not going to be allowed to build the Lord's house, and his disappointment is, I believe, a natural reaction. Since David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), he said, "If this is the will of God, then I'll accept it." But David did even more than this for he also helped the next generation build the Temple by providing the plans for its construction as well funding its immense cost by contributing resources worth

millions of dollars in gold, silver, bronze and iron works, as well as precious stones.

We may not always be able to do everything we would like to do, even in service to God. But let us all have the attitude of David and do the next best thing we can do to see the project through. Let us have the mind-set of Paul who wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:6, ***“I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”*** Paul would have loved to have converted these individuals, but he was content to let someone else see his ambitions come to fruition. He was willing to let someone else accomplish his goals, for in the end it all would reflect kindly back to the Lord. Paul knew he could not do everything, but he was able and willing as David was of old to do something, to so what he could.

Let us all resolve to have the mind of Christ, and seek glory only for the Lord, and never for our self. Pray that God will put our talents to use in His Kingdom in whatever manner possible, and how He sees best.