

## Imagine What God Can Do: Through the Gifts of His People

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Exodus 36:2-7

**Biblical Observation:** When we receive the grace of God's heart in our life, we respond with gratitude.

*Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. –Exodus 33:7-10 (ESV)*

**Gift Source #1:** Gratitude begins with our recognition of the necessity of the presence of God with us.

*And he (Moses) said to him (God), “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth. –Exodus 33:15-16 (ESV)*

November 16, 2008

**Gift Source #2:** Gratitude grows with our realization of God's commitment to stay with us in spite of our failures.

*Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him. –Exodus 34:34-35 (ESV)*

**Gift Source #3:** Gratitude explodes into generosity at the movement of God from the periphery of our world to the center of our life.

*And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put a skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come and do the work. 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, so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task he was doing, and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.” 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.” So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more. –Exodus 36:2-7 (ESV)*