

## 2 Chronicles 31:21

*And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.*

I love reading this story about King Hezekiah, one reason is that he was an awesome king, just like King David was.

† **2 Chronicles 29:1-2** *Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.* (underlined for emphasis)

If you ever read through the Old Testament, then you know that kings would rule over Jerusalem. Some were bad and caused Israel to follow after pagan gods and rituals. But then there were some who were good, and would bring the people back to the Lord, but not really fully like King Hezekiah did.

But here is this 25 year old king and what's the first thing he did as a young twenty something?

† **2 Chronicles 29:3** *In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.*

In his very first month as king, he did not seek after kingly pleasures, but instead he sought after Godly things, and that was to open up "*the house of the LORD.*"

But when I was reading about King Hezekiah, today's devotional verse really stuck out to me, and one reason was because it says that, "*he prospered.*" But not so much that he prospered, but as you read about the things he did, he didn't do them to prosper, but to lead the children of Israel to follow the Lord and to get rid of the false gods out of the land.

Look at today's verse again: *And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart.* (underlined for emphasis)

So he sought after God "**with all his heart**" simply because he wanted to be pleasing to God. He had no vision or desire to be rich and get a bunch of stuff from God, but rather, he wanted to be pleasing to God, and because he wasn't doing it for his own prosperity, we see how God responded to what he was doing. "*So he prospered.*"

As you read the verse, it's almost an after thought; you have this long sentence of how king Hezekiah was doing for the Lord, then right after the period, you have this simple 3 word phrase. ***"So he prospered."***

Yet how many get into ministry to be somebody, or start out humble but get caught up in the fame of it all, or wanting to be like some other mega ministry, so much so that their passion is for fame and fortune and recognition and no longer glorifying the Lord?

Some even teach a prosperity gospel, where you can name it and claim it, it's all yours because God wants you to have it (as long as you share it with them). But this type of teaching is not scriptural at all.

Maybe for some you, you need to stop and ask the Lord to show you why you are doing what you do, because we all should want to serve and minister to others with the right motives, bringing glory to the Lord, and that's what it comes down to. Because once we leave this earth and are in heaven, we will receive rewards for what we do. If they are done with the right motive, which is to glorify the Lord and not ourselves, and not for any financial gain for ourselves, then we will receive those rewards. But if it's just for selfishness and trying to be somebody, your works will all be gone; you will still have your salvation, but no rewards.

† **1 Corinthians 3:13-15** *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

† **1 Corinthians 13:1-2** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

† **Matthew 25:21 (NLT2)** *The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'*