

1 Chron 28:9 (NLT)

And Solomon, my son, get to know the God of your ancestors. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and with a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

A true story that happened several years ago.

Monday was a day off for most of us (Referring to Memorial Day), and with this holiday it seems all the stores had some type of big sale going on. For me in particular, the big sale was at a music store, which is about 1 ½ hours away. But included in this sale, they were giving away a free guitar. The catch was you had to be there before the doors opened at 9:00 AM. So I called one of my best friends and asked him if he wanted to go. He said sure, so we both got up early on this day off to get there in time for the drawing. We got there an hour early and filled out the little card to register for this free guitar and waited in line like everyone else.

Now me, I don't play guitar, but my friend (who also is a Christian) does. My plans and even my prayers were that I would win this guitar, not for myself, but so I could give it to my friend.

So we waited around for an hour and they finally had the drawing. They pulled the name out and read it off, and to my surprise, they called my friend's name.

He won the guitar!

He was very excited, and everyone was happy for him. But me, I was a little disappointed because I wanted to give it to him and even asked the Lord for it so that I could.

The Lord had searched my heart and now it was true that I wanted my friend to have this guitar, and if you think about it, the Lord gave me the desires of my heart, just not in the way I asked for it.

You see the desire was for my friend to have the guitar, and God gave it to Him.

† ***For the LORD sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought.***

So why do I tell you all of this? Sometimes we pray, and we pray for the right things, but we ask for them in the wrong way. So just because God doesn't answer in the way we think He should do things, does not always mean that God does not answer our prayers. It just means He has a better way or a different plan for doing things.

My prayer should have been that my friend would get this guitar, not that I would give it to him, but that the Lord would, if that was His will. But if you think about it, since the Lord gave my friend the guitar, the Lord received the glory, and not me.

It's ok to be specific when we pray, but remember that God does not always do things specifically the way you want Him to, because He is God, and He is in control. Not you, not me, not the music store, and not the person who is pulling the winning name. No, God is in control, He knows that, and sometimes we need to be reminded of that.

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