

# The Great Challenge!

**“The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD? ” (I Chronicles 29:5).**

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**“I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?” (Luke 12:49).**

King David had a desire he could not fulfil. He wanted to build God a House. On first consultation, Prophet Nathan gave him a 'go ahead'. But God told Nathan that night **“Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in”** (I Chronicles 17:1-4). An idea may be grand, religious and approved / applauded by God fearing men, but it may not be the will of God. This is why it is important to **“Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life”** (Proverbs 4:23).

God had a different plan. **“... but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name”** (2 Chronicles 6:9). The secret to success is discovering and following God's plan - however the revelation of it came about. However, many today would rather pursue their petty ideas of “building castles in the air” rather than God's plan.

There are others too who will commit or support only to ideas that they generated. If the ideas came from others they withdraw all support. Others still there are who will support a project only if they will get the credit for its accomplishment. If David were like that, he would not have made provision for the building of the temple. Learn from this shining example: **“I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee”** I Chronicles 29:17).

David not only made provisions for the work but

also challenged the whole nation to rally round Solomon in the building of the temple. His challenge reveals the key ingredient to successful achievement - willingness. It has been rightly said that **“there is always a way, when there is willingness”**.

David knew that no matter how abundant the provisions he made, and no matter how wise or rich Solomon is, the temple will not be built without willing volunteers for the service. Today, God is still looking for willing volunteers for His service **“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me”** (Isaiah 6:8). Isaiah volunteered himself not others. Some fail to volunteer themselves for fear of failure and have forgotten God's promise **“For every deadline, I will throw you a lifeline - so keep believing”**

The divine challenge remains: **“If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?”** (Jeremiah 12:5). **“... but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits”** (Daniel 11:32). **If you know your God, show it by your exploits for Him! Let Jesus' fire kindle in you today! (Luke 12:49)**