



SABBATH 38—SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

I'm Wholly Thine, Lord

1 Chronicles 29:14—“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.”

Today, we're going to start the devotional with this amazing quote from Ellen G. White: “Is this the language of your heart? ‘I am wholly Thine, my Saviour; Thou hast paid the ransom for my soul, and all that I am or ever hope to be is Thine. Help me to acquire means, not to expend foolishly, not to indulge pride, but to use to Thine own name's glory’” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 46).

This prayer helps us understand three important points regarding our relationship with God:

1. I am Yours, not mine. I belong to You, not to myself. What I have and will have are Yours and not mine. What I am and what I will be is Yours. This must be the keynote of our fidelity. It is the understanding that everything we have belongs to God that leads us to complete surrender.
2. You are my Savior and You paid the ransom for my life. This is my main motivation for serving. I do not serve because of the applause or the support received but as a response to the salvation that God has given me.
3. Help me to acquire resources that can be used for the glory of Your name.

Here's the practical aspect of it. We can spend a lifetime theorizing on points 1 and 2, but the third aspect is about action and it's a result of the true understanding that everything belongs to God and that we have been bought at a high price. When we use what God puts into our hands recklessly or just to satisfy our vanity, we are actually acting as owners, even though we are only stewards. We live in a consumerist society that equates personal happiness with the acquisition of material goods. The lifestyle of today's society can be summed up with the thought, “Work, spend, work harder, and spend more,” which is driven by the desire to get things we currently don't have and to feel fulfilled, satisfied, and gratified.

Appeal: It is liberating and challenging to realize that everything belongs to God and that I must turn everything over to His care. Since everything is His, I must trust Him to guide every aspect of my life. Today is the day to reaffirm: “Lord, I want everything I have and am to be used for the glory of Your name.”

