

### **Credit where credit is due**

*Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."  
(Gen. 41.16)*

The story of Joseph takes up one quarter of the Book of Genesis (Ch. 37 – 50). Joseph was thrown into a well by his brothers, sold to traders going to Egypt, put into service in the house of Potiphar, falsely accused of adultery by Potiphar's wife, and imprisoned for two years. When Joseph was given a chance to interpret a dream for Pharaoh, it would have been easy for Joseph to say to Pharaoh, "Sure, I can interpret that dream for you, just get me out of jail first." However, Joseph was a man who honored God and would not take any credit for what God was doing.

Daniel is another example of giving credit where credit is due. When King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream no one could interpret, he sent for Daniel. Here is what Daniel told the king,

*DAN. 2.27-28: Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.*

Daniel could have easily told the king that he, Daniel, had the power to interpret the dream. Instead, Daniel gave credit where credit was due, and that was to God.

Giving credit where credit is due has everything to do with honesty and integrity. There have been instances where writers, reporters, and yes, even pastors, have used the work and words of others and either not given them credit, or passed the work off to be their own. In either case, when this happens, this is called plagiarism, passing the work off of another as your own. I even had someone put their name on a discipleship study I had written, as if it was their own. This person, a pastor, was fired for what he did!

Both Daniel and Joseph gave God the credit for what only God could do. In the New Testament, Peter commanded a lame man to get up and walk, but this command was in the name of Jesus, it was Jesus who healed the man, not Peter (Acts 3.6).

When churches are experiencing an increase in people coming to faith in Christ, an increase in baptisms, an increase in giving or attendance, the wise pastor will give God the credit and the glory because those increases are at the hand of God. God can take those increases away just as easily as He can grant them. As children of God by faith in Jesus Christ,

we should always be eager to give God both the credit and the glory for what is happening in His church.

Giving credit where credit is due honors God. Giving credit where credit is due demonstrates humility and honesty in ministry. Instead of puffing ourselves up about something we have no control over, let us be quick to give God the credit and the glory for all He is doing.

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