



“Whoever boasts of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.” Proverbs 25:14

Smoke and mirrors – its all show! To talk about your giving or to boast in your gifts is never wise. To talk about giving and then to not follow through is disgraceful. “As clouds without rain!”

Such promises raise false hopes and then dash them. Better to refrain from promising and then deliver than to talk about them and leave others disappointed. “But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, and neither by any other; but let your yes, be yes, and your no, no, lest you fall into condemnation.” (James 5:12).

It is embarrassing to speak too soon and be found, if not a liar, a braggart. Such promises are often our attempt to have others look up to us – to think we are “spiritual” or well off or that we become more important in their eyes than we are in our own! Soon, like the little boy who cried “wolf” people are no longer impressed by undelivered promises and lofty words that sail by without leaving their often promised gifts! “Men... who search out their own honour, is not honour.” (Proverbs 25:27).

Before you promise a gift, examine yourself. Why do others need to know of your giving in the first place? Secondly, can you deliver what you’ve promised? The godly person “swears to his own hurt and changes not.” (Psalm 15:4). That means this – if you promised – fulfill your promises – even if it hurts – hurts your schedule, hurts your wallet, or hurts your pride!

“Father, help me refrain from all false boasting. Help me to be the genuine article – please Lord, allow my life to bring the “rain” others need. Cause me to be wise, so that I don’t promise what I can not deliver. Help my yes, to be yes, and my no, to be no! Thank You Lord.”

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