

Stewardship Month



PROPORTIONATE GIVING

Preface



Apparently, some people feel a little uneasy when the Church speaks directly to them about money! So, here is a little booklet on Proportionate Giving.

This will encourage individuals to think and pray about the subject for themselves, and then make up their own minds.

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work."

II Corinthians 9: 7-8

WHAT IS
PROPORTIONATE
GIVING
?



It's making a
**VOLUNTARY, SYSTEMATIC,
CONTRIBUTION**
of financial support
to your church



VOLUNTARY:
giving out of love
and gratitude for
all God gives you.



SYSTEMATIC:
giving a predetermined
portion of your income
as you receive it.

**THE
OLD TESTAMENT
GUIDELINE**
for giving was a 'tithe' -
or tenth - of total property.

"Of all that thou givest me, I will
give the tenth to thee."

Genesis 28:22

Today - proportionate giving
remains an important part of
church life for many
Christians.

THE ORIGINS OF PROPORTIONATE GIVING

OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament contains many references to tithing. It refers to tithing as being required of all.

A tenth of possessions such as animals, grains, etc. (the best tenth or "first fruits"), were to be set aside and offered to God in thanks for the blessings we are given.

The custom of tithing may have started before the 8th Century B.C.

"All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed or of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's"

Leviticus 27: 30





The Holy Bible provides the basic Christian teaching about giving.

NEW TESTAMENT

According to the New Testament, Jesus affirmed giving as a form of STEWARDSHIP.

Stewardship means using everything God has given us - life, talents, possessions - to serve God with love and gratitude. Jesus encouraged giving in proportion to what we have received, praising the poor widow for her generous gift.

(Luke 21: 2)

The Apostle Paul directed his followers to plan their contributions.

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper."

1 Corinthians 16: 2



REASONS FOR GIVING

Everything we have comes as a gift from God.

To show our faith and thanksgiving, we can return a part of God's gifts to us to help the church carry out its work.



Proportionate giving is a way of --

LOVING

Through giving, we show our love for God and humanity and receive God's love.



GROWING

It is a challenge that helps us develop self-discipline, responsibility and maturity.



HELPING

Proportionate giving supports programs to help with material and spiritual needs.



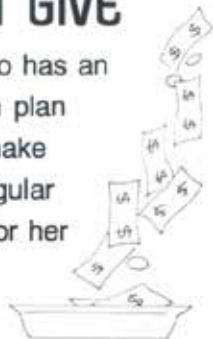
"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4: 10



EVERYONE CAN GIVE

Anyone who has an income can plan ahead to make giving a regular part of his or her budget.



EMPLOYEES

Regularly set aside a portion of your salary.



THE SELF-EMPLOYED

Compute the percentage based on your income after business (not personal) deductions.



RETIRED PEOPLE

Give, even if income is small. The amount is not as important as planned, consistent giving.



TEENS

Giving a percentage from part-time jobs will help establish the giving habit early.



CHILDREN

Even youngsters can put aside a small amount each week for God.



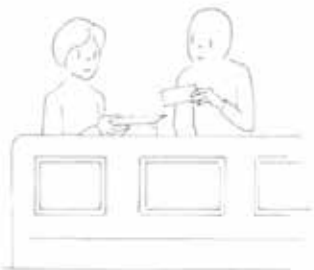
HOW AND WHEN TO GIVE

These GUIDELINES will help you meet your plan for giving.



BE SYSTEMATIC

The key is to make use of the Stewardship Envelope system of the Church. Whatever Stewardship Envelope is used - weekly or special - be prompt and try not to miss dates.



WEEKLY / COVENANT

Weekly or covenant giving helps your church plan its budget. Planning to give yearly often results in not having the money ready when promised.



FINANCIAL GIVING IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE

for other Christian obligations such as volunteering your time for church-related activities. Think of giving as an important part of your total stewardship responsibilities.



COMPUTING YOUR PERCENTAGE

When you give,
give generously.
There is a way
to determine
what
you should give:



AIM TO SET ASIDE A PERCENTAGE (%) OF YOUR INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	AMOUNT TO SET ASIDE EACH MONTH		
	\$	5%	8%	10%
	1,000	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 100
	1,500	\$ 75	\$ 120	\$ 150
	2,000	\$ 100	\$ 160	\$ 200
	2,500	\$ 125	\$ 200	\$ 250
	3,000	\$ 150	\$ 240	\$ 300
	4,000	\$ 200	\$ 320	\$ 400
	5,000	\$ 250	\$ 400	\$ 500
	6,000	\$ 300	\$ 480	\$ 600
	7,000	\$ 350	\$ 560	\$ 700
	8,000	\$ 400	\$ 640	\$ 800

THE BLESSINGS OF PROPORTIONATE GIVING



Proportionate giving brings --

JOY

Giving is a concrete way to acknowledge God's presence in our lives. Serving, in response to God's grace and generosity, brings a happiness that cannot be achieved through more self-centred activities.

AWARENESS

Giving is a way of sharing concern for others throughout the world. As we become more sensitive to others' needs, we grow closer to God.

FULFILLMENT

People who give regularly strengthen the sincerity of their commitment to Christ. Giving itself becomes deeply satisfying, a way to follow Christ.

MAKE PROPORTIONATE GIVING A PART OF YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST

It's an important way to:

- **EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE**
to God for the gifts and blessings
you have received
- **RENEW YOUR FAITH**
and grow closer to Christ
- **HELP YOUR CHURCH**
remain strong and
fulfill its mission



Give with a **LOVING,** **GENEROUS HEART**

God will reward you with
joy and fulfillment.

*"The measure you give will be
the measure you get back."*

Luke 6: 38



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