

BEL VED

Love. Gratitude. Response.

Fall 2022 Stewardship Campaign

Insert 1/4

Scripture is filled with examples and teachings that focus on possessions, wealth, giving, gifts, generosity, offerings, charity, sacrifice, and sharing with those in need. Giving is central to Jewish and Christian practice because people perceive that God is extravagantly generous, the giver of every good gift, the source of life and love. People give because they serve a giving God.

In the Old Testament, numerous passages underscore the significance of tithing (giving a tenth) and of first fruits (offering the first and best of harvest, livestock, and income to the purposes of God). And Jesus' teachings abound with tales of rich and poor, generous and shrewd, givers and takers, charitable and selfish, faithful and fearful. He commends the poor widow putting two coins in the treasury, giving out of her poverty (Luke 21:1-4). The story upsets expectations by pointing to proportions rather than amount as the measure of extravagance.

In the story of the farmer who built bigger barns, placing his trust too much in earthly possessions, Jesus reminds us, "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed" (Luke 12:13-21). Acquisitiveness does not foster a life rich in God.

And Jesus recounts the parable of the three servants entrusted with varying talents to illustrate God's desire for us to use faithfully, productively, and responsibly what has been entrusted to us (Matthew 25:14-30)...

...How people use what they have matters to God. Paul describes generosity as one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). He describes how some people have the special spiritual gift of giving and generosity (Romans 12:6-8). All Christians practice generosity while some are particularly gifted by the Spirit to give in extraordinary measure.

(Robert Schnase, *Cultivating Faithfulness*)

The chart below shows giving as a percentage of weekly income. Find where you are on the graph and consider your giving as a percentage of income. You are invited to prayerfully consider increasing your giving this year as a percentage of your income and becoming an “Extravagant Giver”!

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361