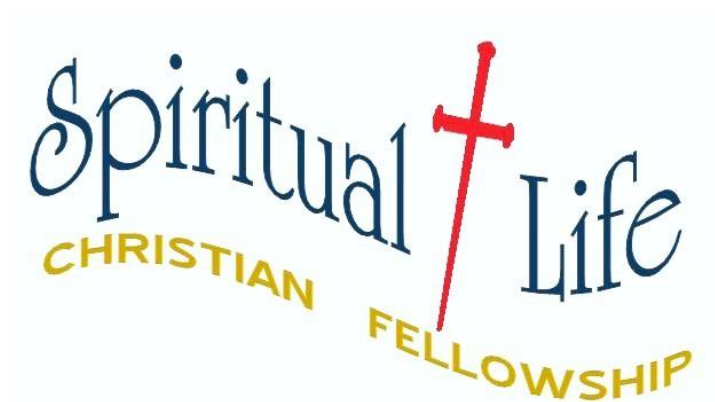


# Blessings Released through Stewardship



*Christ Centered, Holy Spirit Empowered, Love Focused*

**Prepared by: Pastor Bob Adkins**

**Date: 10-12-08**

**Main Text: Luke 6:38**

(Note all scripture references are from the New King James version on the Bible)

**Main Text:**

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

**Introduction:**

1. Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as:
  - a. : the office, duties, and obligations of a steward
  - b. : the conducting, supervising, or managing of something : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care <sup>1</sup>
2. Stewardship refers to the Christian's use of:
  - a. Possessions
  - b. Time
  - c. Talents and Gifts

**Body:**

1. Christian stewardship is governed by New Testament principles.
  - a. Luke 6:38
  - b. Acts 20:35
  - c. 2 Cor. 9:6
  - d. Heb. 6:10
  - e. Heb. 13:16
2. Purpose and attitude in stewardship
  - a. Rom. 12:13
  - b. 2 Cor. 9:7
  - c. Rom. 12:8
  - d. 1 Cor. 10:31
3. Money is to be:
  - a. 1 Cor. 16:2
  - b. 1 Cor. 9:13–14
  - c. Luke 16:9–13
4. Faithfulness in stewardship
  - a. 1 Cor. 4:2
  - b. Luke 21:1–4
5. The teaching of the NT is in keeping with such OT passages as
  - a. Deut. 15:10

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<sup>1</sup>Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. Includes index. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

- b. Psa. 112:9
- c. Prov. 11:24, 25
- d. Prov. 19:17
- e. Eccl. 11:1
- f. Hag. 2:15–19
- g. Mal. 3:10

## Conclusion:

1. The Russell Sage Foundation several years ago published the results of a survey. In the United States, families with a net income of less than \$3,000 a year gave more than 60% of all the money donated to charity; families whose income was less than \$5,000 donated 82% of the total; families with an income between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a year gave only 1.9% of their income!

According to an Internal Revenue Service analysis, Americans who itemize their deductions give less than 3% of their adjusted gross incomes to church and charity.<sup>2</sup>

2. To spend 1½ years in church in a relative life span of 70, one must, on the day of his birth, begin to spend five minutes of each morning and every evening in devotions, plus three hours per week in church.<sup>3</sup>

3. Here is an uplifting thought from *The Inspirational Bible*.

You don't give for God's sake. You give for your sake. "The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives" (Deut. 14:23 TLB). In what ways does tithing teach you? Consider the simple act of writing a check for the offering. First you enter the date. Already you are reminded that you are a time-bound creature and every possession you have will rust or burn. Best to give it while you can.

Then you enter the name of the one to whom you are giving the money. If the bank would cash it, you'd write *God*. But they won't, so you write the name of the church or group that has earned your trust.

Next comes the amount. Ahh, the moment of truth. You're more than a person with a checkbook. You're David, placing a stone in the sling. You're Peter, one foot on the boat, one foot on the lake. You're a little boy in a big crowd. A picnic lunch is all the Teacher needs, but it's all you have. What will you do? Sling the Stone? Take the Step? Give the Meal?

Careful now, don't move too quickly. You aren't just entering an amount ... you are making a confession. A confession that God owns it all anyway.

And then the line in the lower left-hand corner on which you write what the check is for. Hard to know what to put. It's for the light bills and literature. A little bit of outreach. A little bit of salary. Better yet, it's partial payment for what the church has done to help you raise your family ... keep your own priorities sorted out ... tune you in to his ever-nearness.

Or, perhaps, best yet, it's for you. It's a moment for you to clip yet another strand from the rope of earth so that when he returns you won't be tied up.

(From *When God Whispers Your Name* by Max Lucado)

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<sup>2</sup>Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). *Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : A treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers*. Garland TX: Bible Communications.

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