

Stewardship Under the Cross
God's Word on How We Use His Gifts

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 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. - 2

Corinthians 9:6-8

After hearing God's Word about stewardship, . . .

- 1. Receive (be given) God's gifts.** Christians live from the Word of God and the Sacraments. Continue to be given these gifts to be strengthened spiritually.
- 2. Pray.** Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength to follow the Lord faithfully.
- 3. Consider what God does in the Church.** The Church is called to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ by preaching the Gospel to all who will hear it and administering the Sacraments to the faithful. You are a part of God's Church on earth and are called upon to support God's work in the Church.
- 4. Examine yourself.** Consider the commands of God from the New Testament about supporting His work in the Church and examine your own giving. Are you: a) giving of your first fruits – that is, does your offering come out of your income first, not just from what's left over; b) giving voluntarily and cheerfully; c) giving proportionally in a generous way, beginning with a tithe; d) relying on God's promise to provide for you? Trust in God's provision and remember that all of God's commands are for your blessing: for God gave the life of His Son on the cross to forgive you all your sins – He will certainly not abandon you in your physical needs. Trust His Word, and trust that God wants to bless you in heeding His Word.
- 5. Decide on your proportion.** Based on this, consider what proportion of your income you will give faithfully, proportionally, generously, and cheerfully to God's work.

Below is a sample of the pledge card you will be using.

Envelope Number _____

I am currently giving _____ dollars per week to the work of the Church, which is about ____% of my weekly income. In thanksgiving to God and in the sure faith that he will care for all my needs, I will now give: **A Tithe (10%) or A Tithe and a Half (15%) or A Double Tithe (20%) or This percentage: _____%** of my weekly income to the work of the Church, which equals approximately _____ dollars per week.