

# Gratefully Giving Back God's Treasure

Your gift of treasure back to the Lord for what he has given gratefully acknowledges that all we have belongs to God.

"Honor the Lord with the first fruits of all you produce."

Proverbs 11:24

One of the most common questions in a stewardship parish seems to be:  
So how much of my treasure should I be giving back to God?

The answer to that question can best be answered with another question:

*So how generous has God been with you?*

As stewards of all God has showered on us, we are each called to *give sacrificially*, making God the first in our list of spending priorities. The Bible teaches we are return to God from "off the top"—the first fruits—and not from what is leftover.

Considering that the average family spends 4% of its income on entertainment and 3% of its income on clothing, for most in our community, a similar percentage toward the work of our Lord would be a worthy effort at which to start.

Whatever your commitment has been, this year try to grow by 1%—recognizing that all we have, including our money, are gifts from God who gave us these gifts so that we would care for them and find ways to use them to improve the lives of others and to advance the mission of the Lord's church.

*As a help, find your income on the left and then look at the weekly gift back to God associated with the corresponding percentages.*

HOUSEHOLD INCOME				WEEKLY GIFT TO GOD					
Hourly	Monthly	Annually		1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
\$12.02	\$2,083	\$25,000	=	\$5	\$10	\$14	\$19	\$24	\$48
\$14.42	\$2,500	\$30,000	=	\$6	\$12	\$17	\$23	\$29	\$58
\$19.23	\$3,333	\$40,000	=	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$77
\$24.04	\$4,167	\$50,000	=	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$96
\$31.25	\$5,417	\$65,000	=	\$13	\$25	\$38	\$50	\$63	\$125
\$38.46	\$6,667	\$80,000	=	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$154
\$48.08	\$8,333	\$100,000	=	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$192
	\$10,417	\$125,000	=	\$24	\$48	\$72	\$96	\$120	\$240
	\$12,500	\$150,000	=	\$29	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144	\$288
	\$14,583	\$175,000	=	\$34	\$67	\$101	\$135	\$168	\$337
	\$16,667	\$200,000	=	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192	\$385
	\$20,833	\$250,000	=	\$48	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$240	\$481

*Where does God fall on your list of spending priorities?*