

Saturday, March 6

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 63:1-8  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Luke 6:43-45

**6** Give proportionately

is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our "means," not according to an income or a budget.

**"If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have."**  
2 Corinthians 8:12

Prayer: *Dear God, giver of all that we have and hold. You desire that all we do would bear witness to your selfless love. As you have blessed us, so we bless those around us. In proportion to what we have received, may we give. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Focal Verse: "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit." Luke 6:43-44a

Reflection: God also wants us to be a **Proportionate Steward**. This means giving in response to the blessings God has given us. As Paul tells the Corinthians about the churches in Macedonia, *"For they gave according to their means ... of their own free will. "* 2 Corinthians 8:3

As members of a church family, we are regularly asked to look at our blessings and prayerfully consider a response. Many people do so, but do not put it on paper. Making a written Faith Commitment is important for the following reasons:

- ✦ A Faith Commitment shows that God is first in our life! This includes giving our heart, our mind and our resources to God. We build a trust relationship with God not by accumulating wealth in this world, but by placing our faith in God for the life that really is life.
- ✦ Our commitment shows a disciplined response to God's gifts of life and Christ. A Faith Commitment is one way we show loyalty, obedience and respect to God.
- ✦ A Faith Commitment enables your household to make intentional decisions. Just as we plan for other commitments, regular giving to the church both fulfills our response to God and frees us to use our resources in personal ways.
- ✦ A Faith Commitment enables the church to plan. As a church family, we have expenses and make commitments to others - leaders, organizations, suppliers. A commitment from each household allows congregational leaders to responsibly plan for and meet financial obligations which help us do ministry together.
- ✦ As Christians we lead by example. If we are willing to make and fulfill a Faith Commitment, we are showing others the importance of our faith. This becomes part of our witness and our testimony.<sup>33</sup>

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>33</sup> [myweb.cableone.net/immanuelmadison/newsletter/.../10.2008.Newsletter.pdf](http://myweb.cableone.net/immanuelmadison/newsletter/.../10.2008.Newsletter.pdf)