

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

As you ponder your pledge card for 2019, remember that regular giving is a spiritual exercise that trains our souls in gratitude and trust.

Following the adage that “It’s hard to bowl if you can’t see the pins,” here are some “pins” to aim at in giving.

VOLUNTEER TIME

If you had a 40-hour work week and wanted to give an additional 10% of your time, you would spend 4 hours a week volunteering for church, or your child’s school activities, or a community organization, or some combination of those. Food for thought: some recent studies have suggested that those who volunteer regularly are actually healthier, both physically and mentally, than those who never volunteer.

FINANCIAL GIVING

A common approach is to give a percentage of one’s income. Scripture talks about “tithing” as a way to give. That means giving 10% of your income to God’s work. If you’ve never done that, it might feel like jumping into the deep end of the pool, although many newly-committed Christians find it an exhilarating spiritual adventure.

There are other percentages that can be applied to one’s income for giving, as well. Here are some examples (weekly numbers assume 4 Sundays a month, and dollar amounts are rounded off):

<u>MONTHLY INCOME</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>10%</u>
\$1,000	\$20/month \$ 5/week	\$50/month \$13/week	\$100/month \$25/week
\$3,000	\$60/month \$15/week	\$150/Month \$ 38/week	\$300/month \$ 75/week
\$5,000	\$100/month \$ 25/week	\$250/month \$ 63/week	\$500/month \$125/week

Whatever you are led to pledge, may you know the joy and blessing that comes from giving!