

# Stewardship Terminology

Because the word "stewardship" is quite often used to justify just about everything, particularly when it relates to the church and financial matters. I'd like to share a few definitions of key terms related to the whole matter of CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP in our lives.

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**"CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP"** is nothing less than God's call for us as God's people to assist in managing the affairs of this earth with God. We are called to be "friends of the bridegroom" and "co-workers with the Lord." Our stewardship consists of making responsible decisions about our time, health, talents, relationships, property, and all that makes up our lives.

**"FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP"** means the responsible making of decisions about the money we have in the light of our high calling to "do God's will in our lives." "FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP" requires that we return part of our money to God in support of the work of God's Church, and then that we manage the rest wisely.

**"CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP"** has as its primary goal the giving of opportunities for making financial decisions and commitments.

**"FIRST-FRUITS GIVING"** means just that: consciously to return a first part of our income to God, in a systematic way, in support of the work of God's Church as an act of gratitude, and then consciously to make wise decisions in regard to how we should manage the remainder of our income.

**"PERCENTAGE GIVING"** means to determine what part of our total income we will give as our "First Portion Gift" to God in support of the work of God's Church, as an act of gratitude and thanks for all God has done and continues to do for us and for the life of the world.

**"PLEDGING"** is the making of a commitment in regard to our "First-Fruits" "Percentage" Gift.