

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of **Stewardship** to the congregation

August 2022

Tithing is a spiritual adventure. It is but the beginning of a deeper, richer relationship with God. The time to launch out is now. Is that an adventure we want? Listen to this true story and then consider the challenge.

A pastor preached a sermon on the benefits of tithing and a couple of years later retired to another city. One day he received a package from a parishioner who had heard the sermon and simply could not forget what the pastor had said. When he opened the package, he found two lovely framed pictures, both of a carved wooden angel attached to the end of a pew in the chancel area where choir members sat during worship. The choir pews were on opposite sides of the chancel facing each other, thus the angels faced one another. One angel was facing left in the frame and the other angel faced right as though they were looking at each other. The pastor wondered exactly why his former parishioner had gone to the trouble of taking those pictures and sending them to him. The man had composed a letter that explained:

“Dear Pastor, before you retired you gave a sermon on tithing. This gave me the courage to start. At the time I was out of work. I started tithing my unemployment checks. Not long after starting to tithe, I got a job and have been employed ever since. So thanks again for giving me the gift of the tithe. Please consider the photos as a gift in return.”

Those pictures are now hanging on a wall in the pastor’s home. He considers them among the loveliest gifts he has ever received. The pastor often shows them to visitors and lets them read the letter written by a grateful parishioner. Tithing is, indeed, a spiritual adventure; the beginning of a deeper, richer relationship with God!

Prayer: Generous and loving God, please help each of us to have a deep, rich relationship with you. Through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

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