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Low-Income Households Most Likely to Give 10% of Income to Church and Charity, State of the Bible 2026 Finds

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Love & Generosity,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The poorest Americans are the most generous givers in the country. Households earning under $30,000 a year are nearly twice as likely as the richest to give away at least 10% of their income to a church or charity, according to Chapter 8 of the American Bible Society's State of the Bible: USA 2026.

One in ten of the poorest households gave a full tenth of everything they earned. Among households earning over $100,000, only 5.4% Did the same.

It is the widow's mite, measured in data. Two thousand years ago, Jesus watched a poor widow drop two small coins into the temple treasury and said she had given more than the rich - they gave from their surplus, and she gave everything she had.

The numbers in this new study tell the same story. The people with the least to spare are the ones who spare the most.

The findings come from "Love & Generosity," the eighth and final chapter of State of the Bible: USA 2026, released by the American Bible Society on 5 November 2026 and reported by The Christian Post on 13 November. The survey spoke to 2,649 adults across all 50 states and Washington, D.C., Interviewed online and by phone between 8 and 27 January 2026 through NORC's AmeriSpeak panel.

One honest note before the numbers: these figures are self-reported by the givers themselves, not taken from church financial records, and they include gifts to secular charities as well as churches. People remember their generosity imperfectly, and some may round up. But the pattern is so steady, and the gap so wide, that it is hard to explain away.

State Of The Bible 2026 Giving: The Share Falls Steadily As Income Rises

The headline finding is not a single number but a staircase. The share of households giving at least 10% of their income falls at every step up the income ladder: 10% under $30,000 a year, 9% at $30,000 to $60,000, 8.3% At $60,000 to $100,000, and just 5.4% Over $100,000.

The richer the household, the smaller the share of its income it gives away.

The median gift tells the same story in a different way. The lowest-income households gave a median of 1.3% Of their income; the highest-income households gave 0.6% - Less than half as much, as a share of what they have.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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