

Check this out.
All the work is
done! 😊



The 8 T's of Grateful Living

POWERPOINT SLIDES INSTRUCTIONS

(Delete this slide before presenting! 😊)

These slides are simply a helpful guide to get you started on the *8 T's of Grateful Living* theme. You can add, delete or edit them to suit your personal message.

To insert a **New Slide**. Select **New Slide** or **Layout** and select from the 25 x slide templates.* Then simply insert your own text and images onto the slides.

*If you would like to edit the 25 Master templates or make additional slide templates you will need to do the following: Select **View > Master > Slide Master**.

You can then duplicate a slide layout and make the changes you want. When you're done, simply select **Close Master View**.

Why should we encourage Grateful Living? (Delete this slide before presenting! 😊)

This series of Grateful Living messages falls under the category of what we often call 'stewardship'—managing the things that God gives us—but for many listeners these messages will open up a whole new way of living abundantly (John 10:10).

You see, it's simple, yet profound. **God is love, and because he loves he gives** (see John 3:16). God calls us to be faithful stewards of His love by loving Him and *giving* His love to others. We do this by sharing *all* that we have and are.

The very heart and foundation of stewardship isn't money, it's love.

At its very essence, **Faithful Stewardship = Loving God and people with *all* we have and are.** We are to love God and people with everything, with our 8 T's—Time, Talents Testimony, Temple, Treasure, Territory, Tribe and God's Truth.

In the book *Counsels on Stewardship* by Ellen G. White, the word 'love' is used 36 times in just the first 18 pages! Love is the foundation of stewardship.

When we understand God's love we live gratefully. **Grateful Living is about whole-of-life giving.** It's about passing on the things that our loving Provider God gives to us. God gives, so that we can give. "And God is able to make *all* grace abound to you, so that in *all* things at *all* times having *all* that you need you will abound in *every* good work." (2 *Corinthians 9:8*)

The gospel calls for a whole new way of living, grateful living, and it places love at the centre—not money, investments, security, prestige or comfort. When we love like God loves, "when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts." (*Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 641*)

So is this *8 Pillars of Grateful Living* really a stewardship series? Yes, because **grateful living leads to cheerful giving**, not only more faithful tithes and generous, systematic offerings, but *whole-of-life* giving, and that's what God invites us to experience.

Welcome! to a whole new level of Christ-centred abundant living.

Grateful Living Topic: TALENTS

Message Overview (Delete this slide before presenting! 😊)

Key Scriptures: Matthew 25:14-30 *The Parable of the Talents*

Key EGW Writings: Counsels of Stewardship, pp 114-126; Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 325-365

Goal: Encouraging and inspiring people to use their God-given talents and abilities to serve Him.

Interview Idea: Is there an inspiring person in your church or wider community who you can interview (maybe even by phone or Zoom) about using their talents for God?

The slides for the
actual
presentation start
on slide #5.

(Delete this slide before presenting! 😊)



GRATEFUL LIVING



The 2-minute video called
Grateful Living Overview & Introduction - Low Res
can be inserted here.

The 8 T's of Grateful Living



The 8 T's of Grateful Living



Music: Anna Beaden & Kemy Ugendi

GRATEFUL LIVING



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Talents

SDA Fundamental Belief #21

“We are God’s stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, **abilities** and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God’s ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellowmen, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness.” (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Hag. 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26,27.)

Seventh-day Adventists Believe... A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Doctrines
(Review & Herald, 2005 ed.)

JESUS IS LORD OF THE MULTIPLYING HARVEST



A disciple is someone who in every way is becoming more like Jesus Christ.
How did Jesus faithfully manage His TALENTS?



Talents **The Great Controversy**



God's Blueprint

- I acknowledge that all good gifts, including talents, come from God.
- All that I am or can be belongs to God.
- All the applause, praise and profits that come from my talents are God's.
- God has entrusted me to care for and grow the talents He has given me.
- I commit to using my God-given talents for His glory because I love Him, and He only wants what's best for me.

Satan's Counterfeit

- God might have given you the seed of a talent but look what you've done with it!
- All that I am or can be is a result of my focused determination and my hard work.
- The applause, praise and profits that come from my talents are my reward.
- I use my talents to gain respect and praise so that I can feel positive about myself.
- God is happy if I use my talents all for myself as long as I give Him some credit.

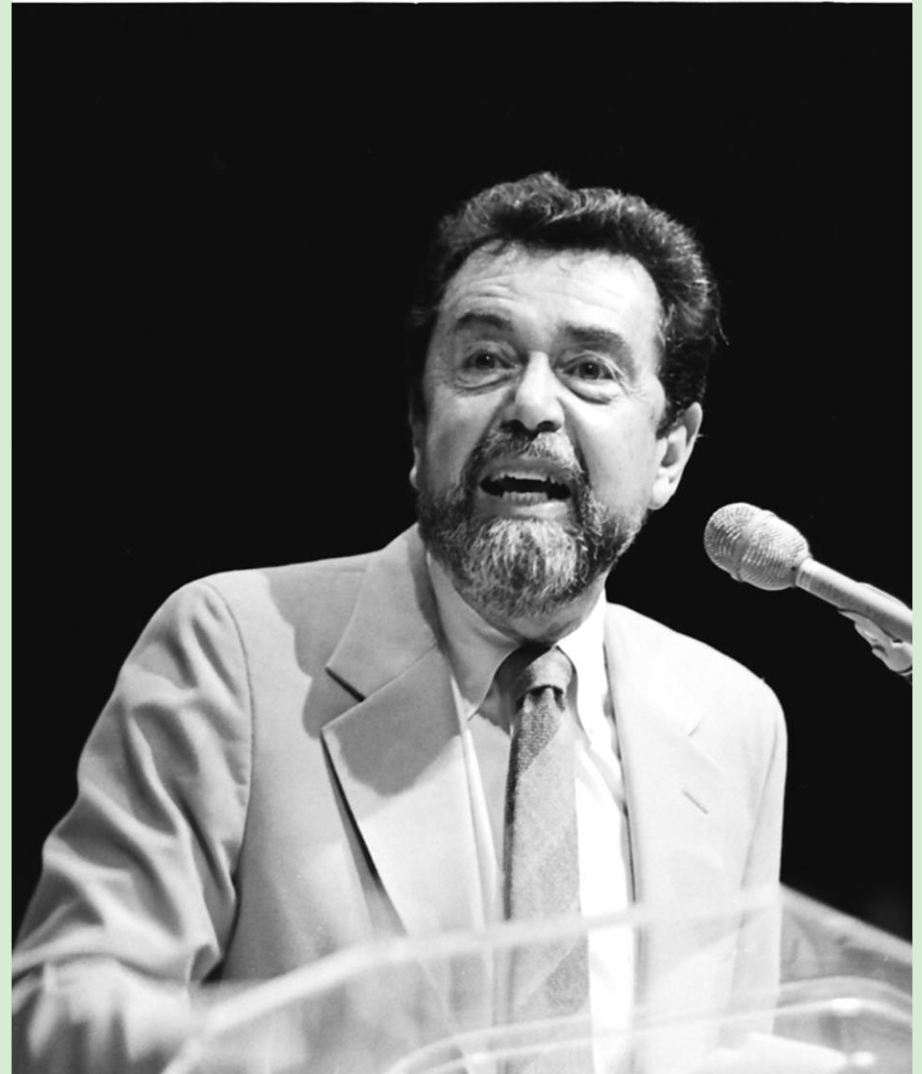


The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Leo Buscaglia
(Author & Professor)

“Your talent is
God's gift to you.
What you do with
it is your gift back
to God.”





“For we are God’s
handiwork, created in Christ Jesus
to do good works, which God
prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



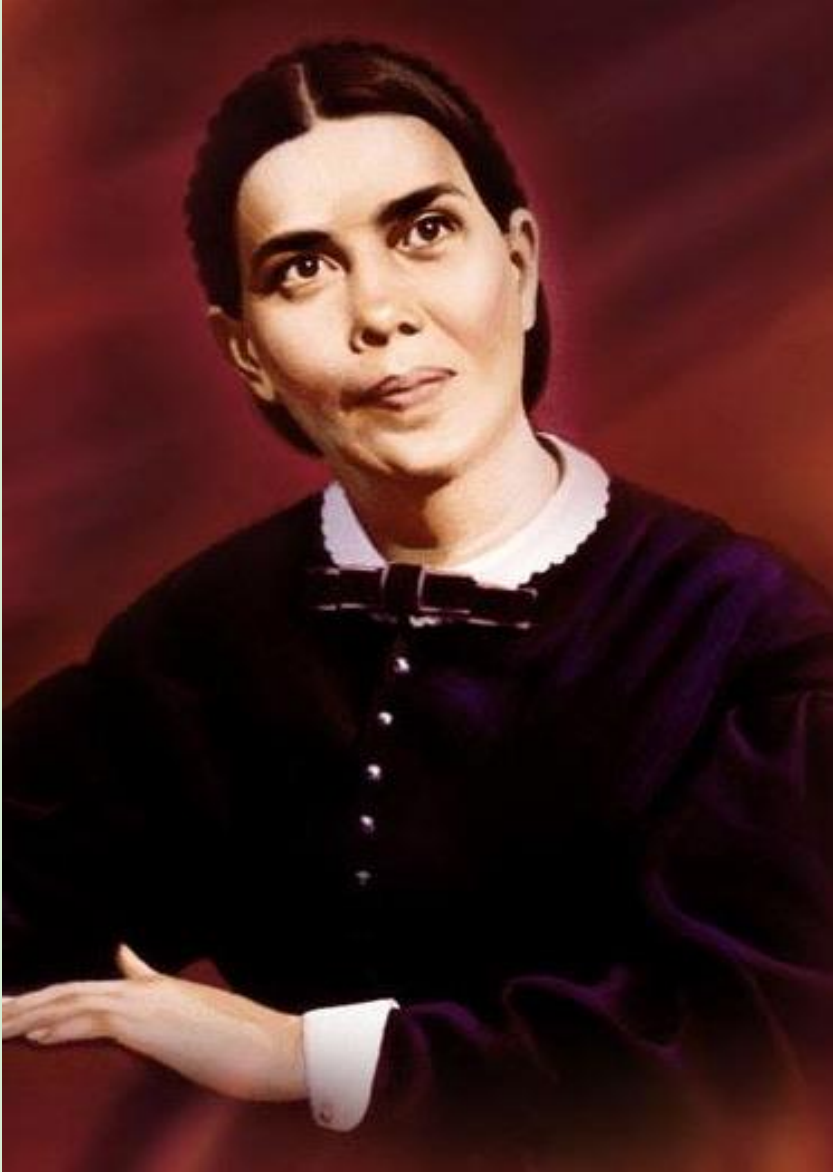
“Our means, our speech, our influence—all are talents to be used in the Master’s service and to be multiplied by wise investment. We must increase our capabilities for service. It is a terrible mistake for a professed Christian to devote his time and means and energies to the service of self. We are to deny self, that we may follow Christ.”

Ellen G. White, Letters & Manuscripts, Vol. 22, Letter 190, 1907, par. 12.



“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, ...”

James 1:17a (NKJV)



“The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men.”

Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, 328



“And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.”

Exodus 31:3-5 (NKJV)



My Trade is a Talent

“God desires that His workers in every line shall look to Him as the Giver of all they possess. ... The skillful touch of the physician's hand, his power over nerve and muscle, his knowledge of the delicate organism of the body, is the wisdom of divine power, to be used in behalf of the suffering. The skill with which the carpenter uses the hammer, the strength with which the blacksmith makes the anvil ring, comes from God. He has entrusted men with talents, and He expects them to look to Him for counsel. *cont...*”

Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, 349



... Whatever we do, in whatever department of the work we are placed, He desires to control our minds that we may do perfect work. Religion and business are not two separate things; they are one. Bible religion is to be interwoven with all we do or say. Divine and human agencies are to combine in temporal as well as in spiritual achievements. They are to be united in all human pursuits, in mechanical and agricultural labours, in mercantile and scientific enterprises. There must be co-operation in everything embraced in Christian activity."

Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, 349



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



“Influence is a gift of God . . . Intellect is an entrusted talent. Sympathy and affection are talents to be sacredly guarded and improved, that we may render service to Him whose purchased possession we are. All that we are or can be belongs to God.

Education, discipline, and skill in every line should be used for Him. The capital is His, and the improvement is the usury [profit/interest] that rightfully belongs to the Master. Whether the amount entrusted is large or small, the Lord requires that His householders do their best.”

Ellen G. White, Our High Calling, 289



“Talents used are talents multiplied. Success is not the result of chance or of destiny; it is the outworking of:

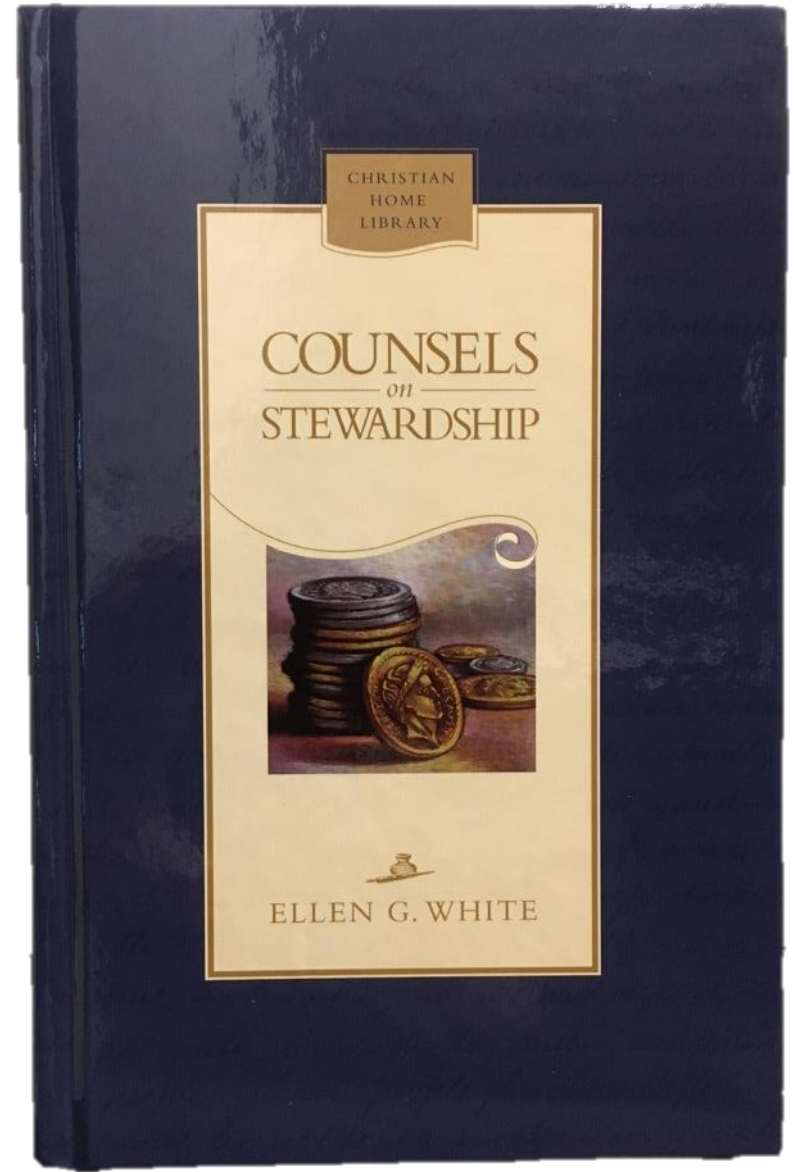
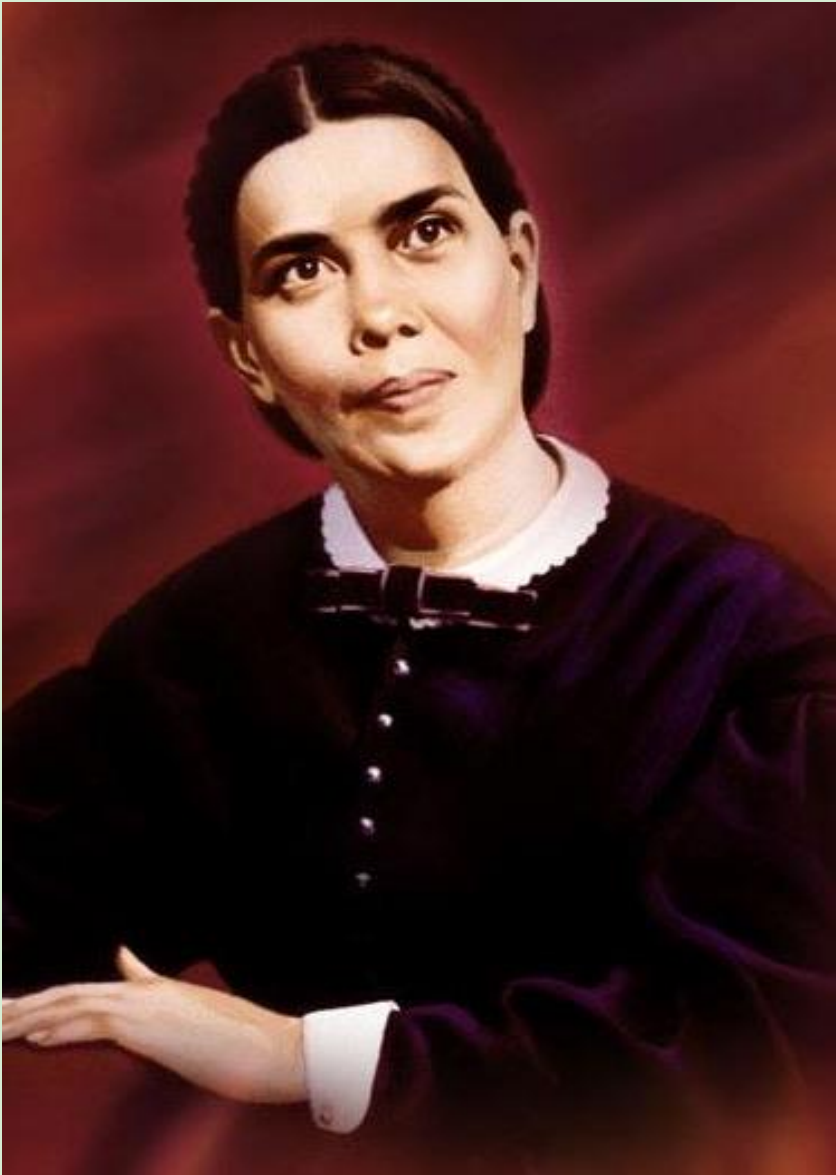
1. God's own providence,
2. the reward of faith and discretion,
3. of virtue, and
4. persevering effort.”

Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, p. 353



“Use what talents you possess; the woods would indeed be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.”

Odd Moments, Sunshine Private Press



GRATEFUL LIVING

Illustration Story (Can be cut and pasted into presenter's notes. Delete this slide before presenting. 😊)

Author and theology professor Haddon Robinson tells the story of a concert violinist whose brother was a bricklayer. One day, a woman began gushing to the bricklayer about how wonderful it was to be in the family of that violinist. Not wanting to insult the bricklayer, she added, "Of course, we don't all have the same talents, and even in a family some just seem to have more talent than others."

The bricklayer replied, "Boy, you're telling me! That violinist brother of mine doesn't know a thing about laying bricks. If he couldn't make some money playing that fiddle of his, he couldn't hire a guy with know-how like mine to build a house. If he had to build a house himself, he'd be ruined."

Robinson's conclusion? "If you want to build a house, you don't want a violinist. If you're going to lead an orchestra, you don't want a brick-layer. No two of us are exactly alike. None of us has every gift and ability. Our responsibility is to exercise the gifts we have—not the ones we wish we had."

Q. How to be faithful with Talents?

A. A faithful steward does what their Master would do if He were present.

See *Counsels on Stewardship*,
p. 113





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Grateful living
leads to cheerful
giving.

Talents

