

# THE STEWPOT

A POTPOURRI OF PRACTICAL IDEAS TO HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER STEWARD

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## More Than Hands: A Lesson in Using Your Gifts

By Rudy Salazar

James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...”

George Dennehy was born without arms and spent his early days in a Romanian orphanage, where he barely survived a challenging start to life. At just one year old, he was adopted by a loving family in the United States. With their support, George discovered his passion for music. At the age of eight, he began playing the cello. From there, he taught himself to play the guitar, electric bass, and even basic piano—all using his feet.



### A VIRAL VIDEO AND A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

George's extraordinary musical talent captured worldwide attention when a video of him playing the guitar with his feet went viral. In the video, George effortlessly strummed the strings and sang Jesus Culture's "How He Loves" with heartfelt emotion. The audience was moved to tears, and the video received an outpouring of admiration and encouragement from viewers around the globe.

Despite his challenges, George has become a powerful symbol of perseverance and inspiration. He uses his musical gifts to share a

STEWARDSHIP IS REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY. IT INVOLVES THE 7 T'S:  
TIME, TEMPLE, TALENT, TREASURE, TRUST IN GOD, THEOLOGY, AND TESTIMONY.

message of resilience and purpose. His journey—from a difficult beginning in an orphanage to his adoption and musical success—speaks to the potential within each of us. George's story reminds us that every person has a purpose, and with faith, determination, and the development of our God-given talents, we can overcome obstacles and achieve remarkable things.

### USING OUR TALENTS FOR GOD

You might feel that you don't have special gifts or abilities, but let me remind you of what the Scripture says:

Ephesians 4:7-8, "However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. That is why the Scriptures say, 'When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.'"



The Bible is clear: God has given each of us gifts and abilities. The Holy Spirit implants and nurtures unique talents in each person—abilities we can develop and use for His glory. These talents aren't limited to musical or artistic skills. Some have the gift of hospitality, others excel in preaching, teaching,

languages, or craftsmanship.

Consider Bezalel, an artist filled with the Spirit of God to create beautiful works:

Exodus 31:1-5, "Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 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.'"

Bezalel's talents transformed ordinary materials into extraordinary works of art. God inspired him to serve with creativity. With the help of Oholiab, they made the Ark of the Covenant with the covering cherubs on top. They also made the golden Lampstand, the Altar of Incense and the Table of Showbread. They designed and created what became the center of Israelite worship for many years. Similarly, in modern times, renowned Adventist artist Nathan Greene uses his gift

to paint inspiring biblical scenes that adorn institutions and homes, drawing people closer to God. Here at the North American Division office, there is a painting of the Second Coming of Jesus, that makes us long for the day of His appearing.



### WHAT ABOUT YOUR TALENTS?

1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

We were given our talents to serve. Here are three places to begin:

1. At Home - The first place to use your gifts is within your home. Perhaps you don't play an instrument or preach, but maybe you have a knack for cooking delicious meals or managing money wisely. Your home is where God expects you to begin stewarding your spiritual gifts.
2. In Your Community - Your talents can also make a difference in your community. Perhaps you can't sing in the church choir or teach Sabbath School, but you might have the ability to repair cars for those in need or share natural remedies



to help neighbors regain their health. Or maybe you can teach others how to prepare healthy vegetarian meals.

3. In Your Church - Church service is not just for those who seek the spotlight. Behind the scenes,

there is always work to be done: changing light bulbs, cleaning, assisting with wheelchair access, running Vacation Bible School, or organizing potlucks. Every effort matters, especially during evangelistic meetings when teamwork is essential.

### WE ARE HERE TO SERVE

Jesus is our ultimate example of service.

- 1 John 2:6, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also

Check out  
[this video](#)  
on talents:



to walk just as He walked.”

What did Jesus come to do?

Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus not only taught His disciples to live a life of service to the world but He demonstrated service by washing His disciples’ feet when they were arguing who would be first. The Bible says that in heaven Jesus will continue to serve:

Luke 12:35-37, “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”



Imagine George Dennehy in heaven, with new arms, eager to serve alongside Jesus. If George can inspire others by playing guitar with his feet, what can you do with the gifts God has given you?

### **A CALL TO ACTION**

As we enter the new year, let’s resolve not to waste time on meaningless distractions. Instead, let’s look for ways to use our gifts to serve at home, in our communities, and in our churches. God has given you talents for a reason—don’t let them go to waste. This year, let us faithfully steward the gifts entrusted to us, working together to further the mission of the church and bring glory to God.



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