

“The Gift”

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□ The Fruits

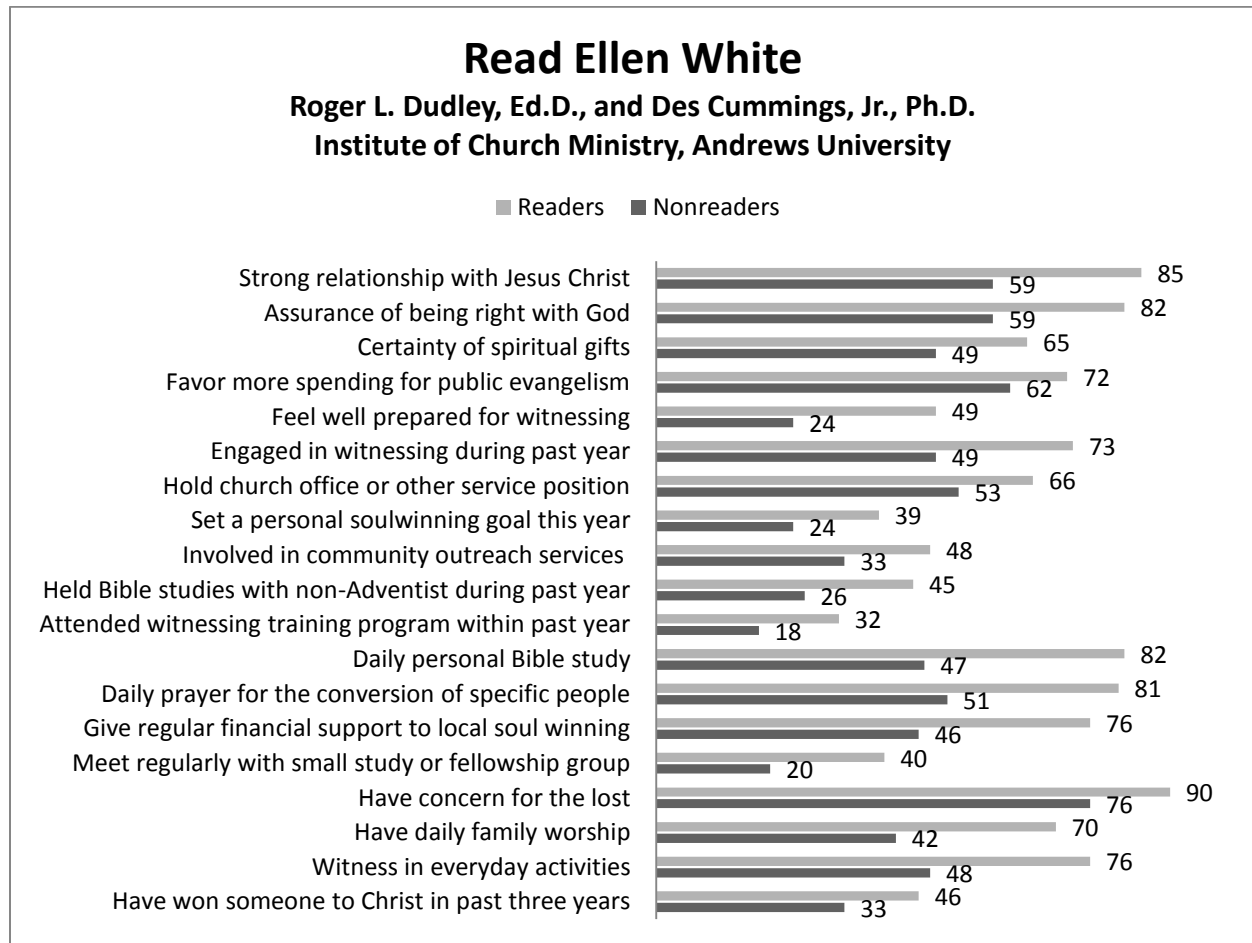
- Matthew 7:15-20
- George Barna’s survey of most influential authors for under-40 pastors (<http://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/5-barna-update/178-survey-reveals-the-books-and-authors-that-have-most-influenced-pastors?q=evangelical>)
- *USA Today* March 17, 2011
- *Christian Science Monitor*: “For real education reform, take a cue from the Adventists” (www.csmonitor.com)

□ The Endgame

- Revelation 1:1-3; 12:17
- If I were the dragon:
 - Strategy #1— I would ravage the author and her writings so that no one will read her.
 - Strategy #2—I would overemphasize the author and her writings so that no one will read her.
- John Nevins Andrews:
 - “#19—One of the chief gifts of the Spirit of God that he has placed in the New Testament church is the gift of prophecy. Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1-4, 17, 18; 1 Cor 12:1-31; 14:1-5; Eph. 4:11-13. This gift the Bible connects with the closing work of this dispensation. Rev. 12:17; 14:12; 19:10. Spiritual gifts do not, therefore, cease to be of importance in the sight of God, nor in that to his true people. And that message which is to accomplish the perfecting of the saints and to fit them for translation, has the Spirit of God connected with it, and speaking out in the management of its work.”
 - “#20—Finally, in the reception of members into our churches, we desire on this subject to know two things: 1. That they believe the Bible doctrine of Spiritual gifts; 2. That they will candidly acquaint themselves with the visions of [Ellen] White, which have ever held so prominent place in this work. We believe that every person standing thus and carrying out this purpose will be guided in the way of truth and righteousness. *And these who occupy this ground, are never denied all the time they desire to decide this matter.*” (*Review and Herald* February 15, 1870)

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□ **The Research**



- ““Seldom does a research study find the evidence so heavily weighted toward one conclusion. In the church growth survey, on every single item that deals with personal attitudes or practices [of spiritual life], the member who regularly studies Ellen White’s books tends to rank higher than does the member who reads them only occasionally or never.” (*Ministry* 10-82, p 12)

□ **The Passion**

- #1—A passion for the Savior
 - In the CD Rom collection of her writings, she writes of “Jesus” 37,038 times, of “Christ” 69,277 times, and of the “Savior” 11,583 times.
 - *Steps to Christ*: “You are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.” (70, 71)
- #2—A passion for the Word of God
 - “The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God's word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One.” (6T 393)

- #3—A passion for the salvation of the lost
 - “Recently in the night season I was awakened from sleep and given a view of the sufferings of Christ for men. His sacrifice, the mockery and derision He received at the hands of wicked men, His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His betrayal and crucifixion—all were vividly portrayed before me. . . . As I have thought of that cup trembling in the hands of Christ; as I have realized that He might have refused to drink, and left the world to perish in its sin, I have pledged that every energy of my life should be devoted to the work of winning souls to Him.” (9T 101-103)

- **The Fruits Redux**
 - She is considered today the third most translated author in history.
 - She is the most translated American author, male or female.
 - Her literary productions totaled approximately 100,000 pages, the equivalent of 25 million words.
 - A decade ago 128 titles were in print bearing her name, including books that are compilations.
 - As fruit of her ministry and leadership, God raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church to become:
 - The largest Protestant educational system in the world today.
 - The largest Protestant health system in the world today.
 - The largest Protestant publishing enterprise in the world today.
 - The most expansive Protestant missions outreach in the world today, with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in more countries than any other denomination.
 - I have personally tasted the fruit of this woman’s life and ministry, and am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that Ellen White was called, gifted and anointed by Christ for such a time as this.

“By their fruits you will know them”