

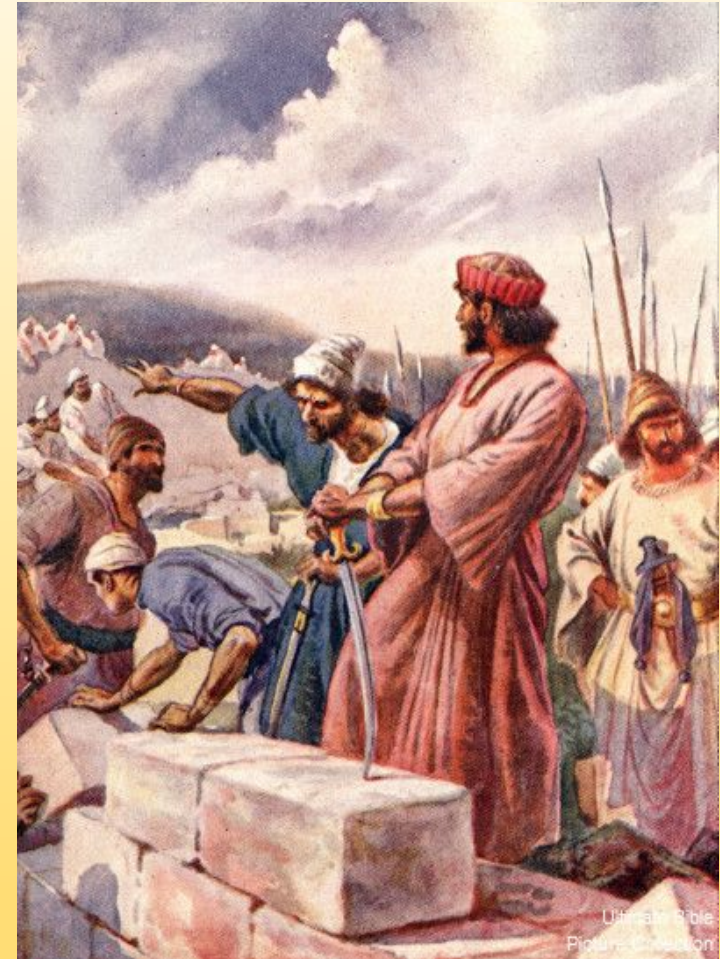
# The Controversy Continues

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Nehemiah 2:18.

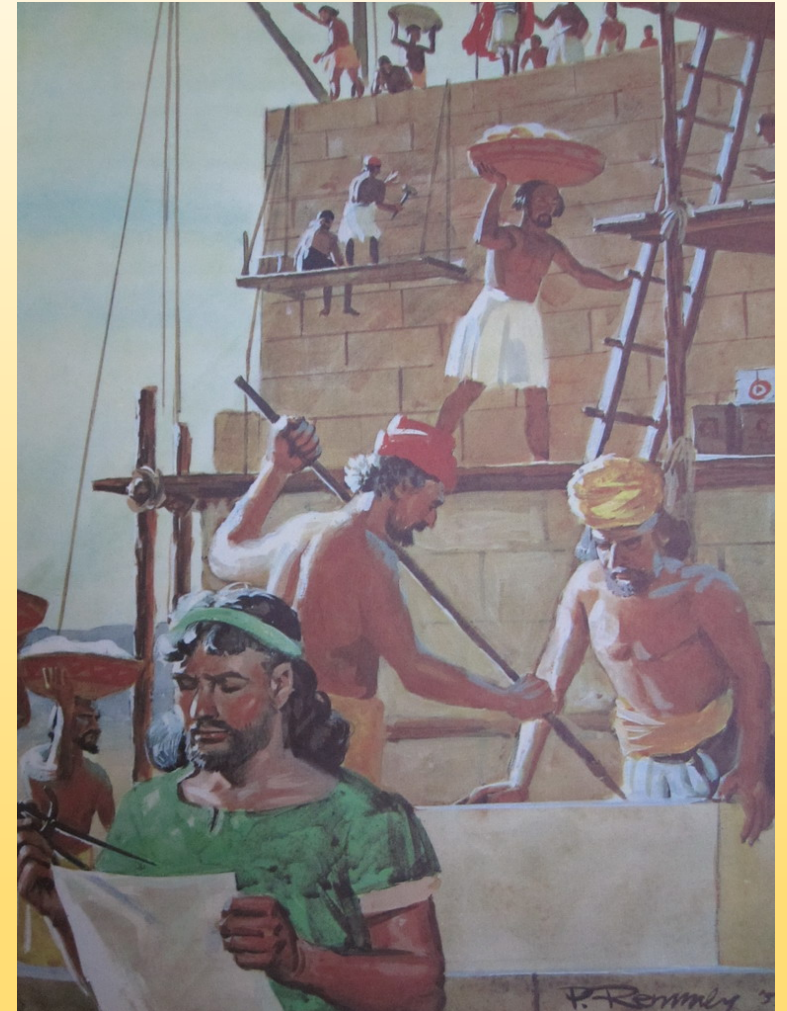


"And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' Then they set their hands to this good work"  
Nehemiah 2:18.

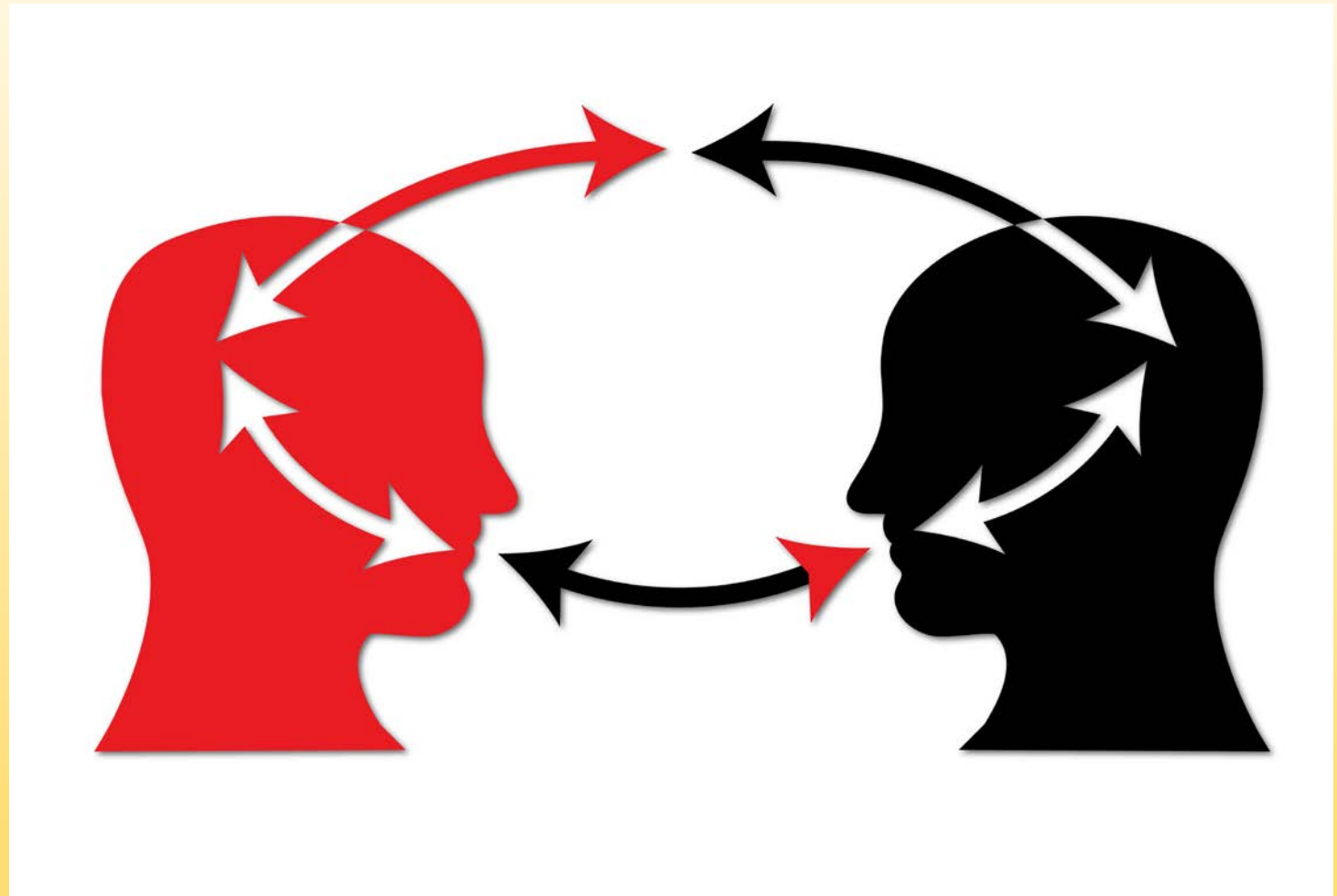


# I. Introduction: INFLUENCE

Nehemiah was a very influential leader. He was successful in preparing the inhabitants of Jerusalem to build the walls of the city, which was considered as an impossible task. In the middle of a fierce opposition his influence had a long-lasting input upon so many generations. The key to his success was based on its availability to promote God and His almighty power in all circumstances.



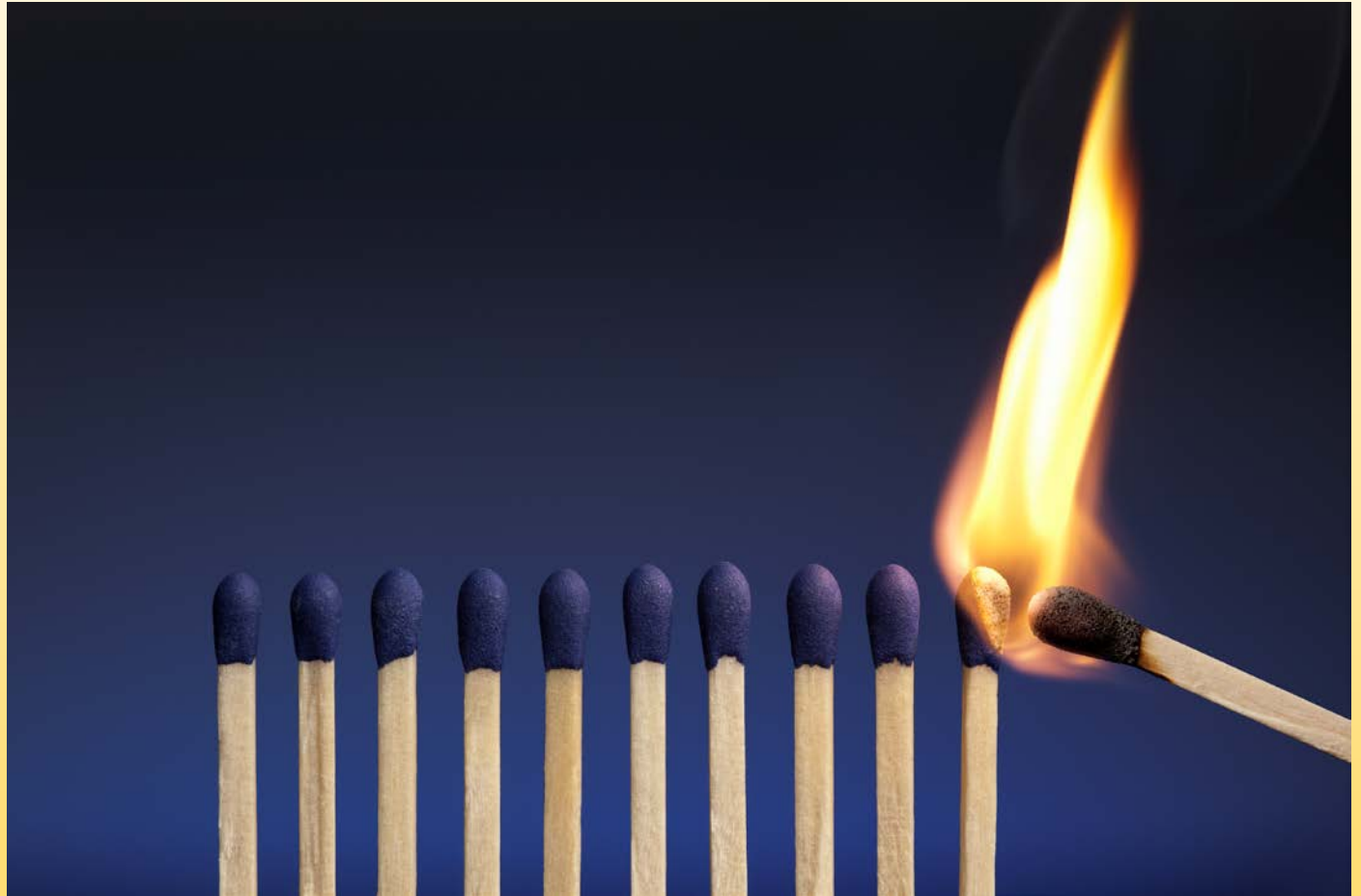
"We are all able to influence people. Only those who are in close connection with God can influence others for eternity."  
(DS)



"I love a good motivational speaker. I especially love when they are speaking of something that fits well with Christianity. A Christian motivating other Christians is so edifying."  
Pamela Rose Williams



“Leadership is influence,  
nothing more, nothing  
less. How do you gain  
influence from people?  
You invest in them.”  
John C. Maxwell,  
Leadership Gold



“It is not a sign of weakness to admit that you need help. Nor it is an imposition to ask others to help you. Most often you open up opportunities for others to use their gifts and be a part of the success by asking for their help. So, learn from Nehemiah’s example of seeking help when needed, and giving credit where it is due. Again, it is the sign of a good leader and a mature person to acknowledge the part that others have played and give them credit for their contributions.”

Mary Whelchel



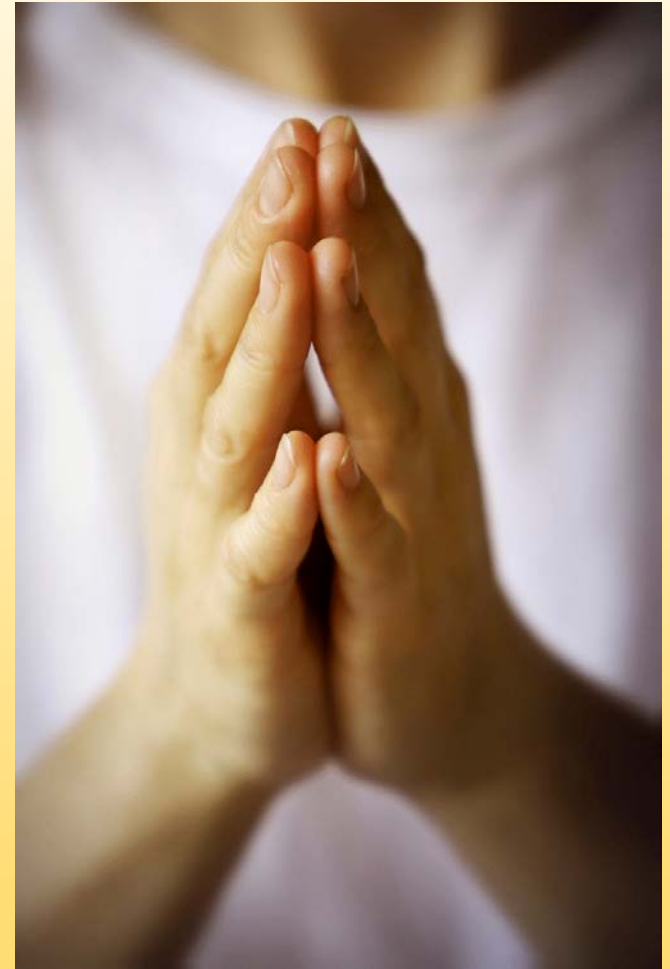
“Nehemiah did not demand that the people of Jerusalem kneel before him and yield to his will. He did not bully or intimidate anyone to follow him. He laid out the need carefully, explaining the problem that needed to be fixed. He then proposed a solution which would fix the problem. And God motivated the people to get behind Nehemiah’s plan.

This is one of the most important principles I ever learned. If you operate on God’s agenda, he does the convicting and convincing. You do not have to manipulate, pressure, bully or intimidate anyone to agree with you. If you are on God’s agenda then God is behind it and will motivate and guide.”

Dave Miller

"A Godly leader knows where the power is. The error of many leaders today is that Satan poisoned them to rely upon their great learning and research instead of flatly prostrating themselves in the arms of power. We need both 'theologians' and 'kneeologians'."

Zarwulugbo Liberty



“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

Martin Luther King



## II. Context



“Nehemiah, the man of God, was not satisfied to complain about the bad news he received from Jerusalem. He refused to investigate who is at fault for that painful situation. Rather he came to the leaders and presented a good plan. Together, they worked with authority under the blessings of God, and transformed the life of the city.”  
(DS)



# Obstacles to Build the Walls of Jerusalem

1	Lack of Legislative Support
2	Security Problems
3	Shortage of Good Material to Build the Gates of Jerusalem
4	Absence of Leadership Structure in Jerusalem
5	External Enemies
6	Secret Informers Inside
7	Injustices among the People of Jerusalem (Abuse and Slavery)

# Obstacles to Build the Walls of Jerusalem (cont'd)

8	Mockery of the Enemy
9	Anger of the Enemy
10	Working in Bad Conditions (with one hand)
11	Distraction (Invitation to leave the Work for Discussion)
12	Accusation of the Illegal Work
13	Invitation to Sin (Hiding in the Temple)
14	Death Threat

# From Crying to Victory, The Story of Nehemiah

1	The Bad News about Jerusalem	11	Allocation of Work
2	Weeping of Nehemiah	12	Mockery of the Enemy
3	Prayer Time	13	Anger of the Enemy
4	Conversation with the King	14	Readiness to resist the attack
5	Authorization for building the walls	15	Annulment of the Slavery
6	Authorization for the use of wood	16	Invitation by the Enemy for Discussion
7	Leaving his assignment and travel	17	Answer of Nehemiah
8	Inspection of the ruins	18	Death Threat. Invitation to the Temple
9	Motivational Speech	19	Refusal of Nehemiah to comply
10	Approval of the Project	20	Completion of the Wall

III. The great story of Nehemiah is encouraging us to persevere in our goal to fulfill God's plan for our life



1. God's blessing is essential for the success of a plan. A leader who can show this reality in his life will have a tremendous success

"And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me."



“Nehemiah assured the leaders this wasn't his project, it was God's project. If people sense your vision is really all about you, and raising you up, and making you great, they will rightly be hesitant. But if it is from God, and they can see it, they will be thrilled to partner with you.”

David Guzik



“God is God, He loves us, He chooses us, He makes us holy, and now, because of what He did for us, we are to spend our energies growing and serving Him. What we are not to do is make a nuisance of ourselves by spending all of our energies in supercilious debate, and ignoring what Jesus did, so it does not impact our lives. The key thing we forget is our obedience and faith development, which is far more important in God's eyes than getting the particulars of the theology of predestination correct. Correct theology is very important because it teaches us who God is! But, our faith development is even more important, because it is our response to what God did!”

Richard J. Krejcir

“Our faith in God’s blueprint for salvation [predestination] gives us the confidence to trust and obey. Like Peter and John, we may not immediately understand why we are suffering. However, we can trust the Lord to take care of our enemies (Acts 4:29). We recognize with the early church that God’s hand and God’s will are actively working to accomplish what he has planned for us (Acts 4:28). We walk in bold obedience, entrusting our souls to his predestined plan.”

Chad Ashby



2. A collective decision for action, involving all members of the team, is always the most effective

"So they said, 'Let us rise up and build.'"



"Nehemiah called attention to the condition of the wall, inspiring the Jews to start the job of rebuilding it. God does that in our lives, gives us wake-up calls before it is too late, often times when if others knew our condition, they would say it was too late. That is exactly what the world around them did, they scoffed, basically saying 'Don't bother, it's broken beyond repair, what do you need a wall for anyway?'"

Pete Benson



“Alone we can do so  
little; together we  
can do so much”  
Helen Keller



“The holy energy and high hope of Nehemiah were communicated to the people. As they caught the spirit, they rose for a time to the moral level of their leader. Each, in his own sphere, was a sort of Nehemiah; and each strengthened and upheld his brother in the work.”

Ellen G. White, The Southern Watchman, March 29, 1904, par. 5.



3. After the time of preparation, consultation, planning, prayer, and decision, it is fundamental to pass on the next step:

## ACTION

“Then they set their hands to this good work”



“The success attending Nehemiah’s efforts, shows what prayer, faith, and wise, energetic action, will accomplish. Living faith will prompt to energetic action. The spirit manifested by the leader will be, to a great extent, reflected by the people. If the leaders professing to believe the solemn, important truths that are to test the world at this time, manifest no ardent zeal to prepare a people to stand in the day of God, we must expect the church to be careless, indolent, and pleasure-loving.”  
Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times,  
December 6, 1883, par. 16.



“The victory has already occurred and happened through the cross of Christ and through His resurrection. We already have this victory in us, therefore we, His servants, now are going to put our hands together as a team of leaders and start building the Kingdom of Heaven; working towards the Kingdom of Heaven, because Christ has already given us victory.”

Pishoy Salama



“The ‘wall’ is simply a metaphor for you to use to put focus on a particular issue you may need to elevate, pray about and potentially take action on. Your ‘wall’ could be a leadership challenge you face or simply something God puts on your heart. It can change from time to time. Most of our ‘walls,’ however, aren’t resolved in a day or a week or even a month. So pray for God to reveal the thing He wants to do through you that you can’t accomplish on your own – it won’t get done without giving God credit. In other words, pray big – tearing down the walls of Jericho or building the walls of Jerusalem. As the legendary missionary William Carey said, ‘Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.’”  
David Roth

# V. Conclusion



“Nehemiah led the entire project as a humble and effective leader. Through his ministry, the walls of Jerusalem were built in 52 days. This task was waiting to be completed at least since the dedication of the Temple in 516 B.C. As the reasonable understanding of his chronology allows us to affirm that the walls were built in 444 B.C., the inhabitants of Jerusalem were waiting to live in security for more than 70 years. With God’s blessing and with strong commitment, the peace came to dwell within the walls of Jerusalem in less than two months”  
(DS)

“God has men in reserve,  
prepared to meet the demand,  
that His work may be  
preserved from all  
contaminating influences. God  
will be honored and glorified.  
When the divine Spirit  
impresses the mind of the man  
appointed by God as fit for the  
work, he responds, saying,  
“Here am I; send me.”  
Ellen G. White, 3BC, p. 1135.



There is need of Nehemiahs in the church today, not men who can pray and preach only, but men whose prayers and sermons are braced with firm and eager purpose. The course pursued by this Hebrew patriot in the accomplishment of his plans is one that should still be adopted by ministers and leading men. When they have laid their plans, they should present them to the church in such a manner as to win their interest and co-operation. Let the people have a personal interest in its prosperity. The success attending Nehemiah's efforts shows what prayer, faith, and wise, energetic action will accomplish. Living faith will prompt to energetic action. The spirit manifested by the leader will be, to a great extent, reflected by the people. If the leaders professing to believe the solemn, important truths that are to test the world at this time, manifest no ardent zeal to prepare a people to stand in the day of God, we must expect the church to be careless, indolent, and pleasure-loving." Ellen G. White, *Christian Service*, p. 177.

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