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## A STRONG CONNECTION

Although almost all who marry probably intend to remain in the relationship, about half of the couples in Western countries lose their love and end up in a divorce. Statistics show that a number equivalent to a half of the Adventists who are baptized every year will also lose their love toward God and drift away from the church, risking their eternal life. The question is, “What can I do to prevent this?”

To “love the Lord your God with all your heart,” soul, strength, and mind was Christ’s answer (Luke 10:27). In the same way as an emotional connection between two persons will grow according to the time they spend together in a relationship of trust, an emotional connection with God will be developed as a result of the time that is daily spent in activities such as prayer, reading, and reflecting on the Bible, studying the Sabbath School lessons, and also in opening and closing the Sabbath with worship.

But Jesus, established still another important principle for developing affection toward God: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21), He said. If my resources, which are carriers of affections, are invested on Earth, subjected to the action

of thieves, rust, etc., then my affections will also be here. But if my treasure is invested in heaven, by helping the poor and supporting God’s cause, by tithing and giving Promise, then my affections will also be there, and my treasures will be safely guarded forever.

A link between giving and emotional attachment is suggested by a study done with 1,054,367 members who left the church between 2015-2017 in one division. About 90 percent of them have no record of returning tithes or giving offerings at least three years before drifting away. This connection between giving to God’s cause and emotional attachment to Him is also emphasized by Ellen G. White. She says that “through every investment made [in God’s treasury], they [givers] will become more wedded to the cause of present truth” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 73).

**APPEAL:** Let us strengthen our connection with God today, by worshiping Him also with our tithes and offerings!

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, please accept our worship today, in Jesus name, amen!