Devotional Book: *The Upward Look* Written by Ellen G. White Friday, April 16, 2021

## Need for Reformation

## If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by. Zechariah 3:7. {UL 240.1}

The future of the church depends on the efforts made by its members to understand the sinfulness of selfishness, and their willingness to take the remedy which will cure the disease from which they are suffering. Let a reformation take place, that those who accept the truth in the future shall not be contaminated by the corrupting influence of Satan.... {UL 240.2}

Many who are condemned by men are vindicated by God. Many who are exalted by human judgment are by God pronounced to be wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. Human judgment often errs. Often man condemns his brother because his discernment is defective. God looks at the heart. He reads the motives which prompt to action. {UL 240.3}

God prompts the question, "Ought I to do this?" Satan leads man to say, "I can." Right is a loyal subject. Might is a haughty tyrant, leading to warfare, the scourge of the world. Right is a representation of the perfect man in Christ Jesus. It is the foundation of all righteousness and peace—the oil which fills the divine flagons.... {UL 240.4}

There is a work to be done among the churches of Seventh-day Adventists that has not yet been done. Ministering angels are waiting to see who will take up the work in the right spirit.... Let all humble themselves before God, asking for grace and wisdom, that they may see wherein they have violated His holy law. Unless His Spirit enlightens them, they will never know, even though it is set before them by their brethren. Those who refuse to come into right relation to God, who will not obey the rules of His government, do not bear His mark.... {UL 240.5}

The Lord is merciful. <u>He does not chastise His people because He hates them, but because</u> <u>He hates the sins they are committing</u>. He must chastise them, that they may return to their loyalty. He designs their punishment to be a warning to them and to others. **No one need walk in darkness**. **No one need say, "Specify to me the precise wrongs of which I am guilty."** To those who say this, I give the word of the Lord: "Search prayerfully, and you will know." {UL 240.6}

If the warnings and reproofs given in the Word of God and in the testimonies of His Spirit are not plain enough, what words would be sufficiently plain to bring about a revival and a reformation?— Manuscript 108, August 14, 1901, "Diary." {UL 240.7}