How eagerly are you awaiting Jesus’ Second Coming? Can you imagine how wonderful it would be when we see Jesus face to face? Especially in these last days, when we see how fleeting security is and how unavoidable losses are in this world, His coming becomes even more desirable.

Yet, is it possible to hasten the day of His coming? Well, Jesus indicates that the proclamation of the gospel to “the whole world as a testimony to all nations” will precede His Second Coming. “Then,” He says, “the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

Even though Jesus is sure to come, Peter denotes that we may speed up the day. This means that God wants us to approach this topic in a proactive way, partnering with Him in hastening His return” (2 Peter 3:12).

Ellen G. White says that it is “By giving the gospel to the world” that we “hasten our Lord’s return. “Then she adds that “we are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God” (The Desire of Ages, pp. 633, 634).
Some common examples help us understand the possibility of hastening things that will happen anyway. By putting a sled at the top of a hill and allow it to glide, it will reach the bottom after some time, as a result of gravity and normal force. However, we may speed up the descend of the sled by spraying cooking oil on the bottom, packing down the snow on the track, staying low on the sled, or even by balancing our weight on it.

In like manner, we may speed up the Second Coming of Jesus in two complementary ways: “While some go forth [1] to preach, He calls upon others [2] to answer His claims upon them for offerings, with which to support His cause in the earth. He has placed means in the hands of men, that His divine gifts may flow through human channels… [thus] saving our fellow men.” Counsels on Stewardship, page 15.

As we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called “Promise,” we have the opportunity to speed up His coming, and to testify about how deeply we do long for His Second Coming. May we put our desires last and God first.