

## Dropping the Light Bulb

Thomas A. Edison was working on a crazy contraption called a “light bulb,” and it took a whole team of men 24 straight hours to put just one together.



The story goes that when Edison was finished with one light bulb he gave it to a young boy helper, who nervously carried it up the stairs.

Step by step, he cautiously watched his hands, obviously frightened of dropping such a priceless, time-consuming piece of work.

You probably can guess what happened by now. The poor young fellow dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the entire team of men 24 more hours to make another bulb.

Finally, tired and needing a break, Edison was ready to have his bulb carried up the stairs. He gave it to the same young boy who dropped the first one.

That is true forgiveness.

Imagine the dynamics of Edison’s gesture ...

- **Belief** of Edison to allow the boy to overcome his mistake – despite great cost in time and money.
- **Sensitivity** of Edison – despite the enormity of his project that would change life for the better of people everywhere – to the youngster’s feelings of despair and disappointment.
- **Relief and motivation** for the youngster, who no doubt realized the seriousness of his mistake and wished for some way to make up for it.
- **An important lesson** for the lad about how to treat others he would encounter in his life who failed despite earnest desire and intentions.

No doubt, Edison’s simple, yet critical, action had some effect on the course of this young boy’s life.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter