

The Family Time

November 25, 2014

By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Psalms 34:13 - Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile

Psalms 34:14 - Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalms 34:15 - The eyes of the LORD [are] upon the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their cry.

There are two incredibly important statements that you need to remember. Both of them found in Sings of the Times Jan. 27, 1890. The first quote says:

The success of a church does not depend on the efforts and labor of the living preacher, but it depends upon the piety of the individual members. When the members depend upon the minister as their source of power and efficiency, they will be utterly powerless. - *{ST, January 27, 1890 par. 9}*

It must then be clearly understood that the work of the home is fundamental to the development of personal faith.

We must all be educated to be independent, not helpless and useless. Let it be seen that Christ, not the minister, is the head of the church. The members of the body of Christ have a part to act, and they will not be accounted faithful unless they do act their part. Let a divine work be wrought in every soul, until Christ shall behold His image reflected in His followers. - *{ST, January 27, 1890 par. 9}*

That divine work must be carried out in every soul. This cannot be accomplished as a group, but as individuals. *Fundamentals of Education, 15.3* says:

The education of children, at home or at school, should not be like the training of dumb animals; for children have an intelligent will, which should be directed to control all their powers. Dumb animals need to be trained; for they have not reason and intellect. But the human mind must be taught self-control. It must be educated to rule the human being, while animals are controlled by a master, and are trained to be submissive to him. The master is mind, judgment, and will for his beast. A child may be so trained as to have, like the beast, no will of his own. Even his individuality may be merged in the one who superintends his training; his will, to all intents and purposes, is subject to the will of the teacher. *{FE 15.3}*

This must be the task of each home. To prepare the hearts and minds of those who live there for the kingdom. *ST, February 10, 1890 par. 5* says:

Let each professed follower of Christ carry out the principles of practical godliness in his own house. Religion in the home is the best proof of genuine piety. It is not the stranger, the visitor, the minister that can best judge of your Christian devotion; it is your children, your servants, the workmen who toil in your fields, who can best tell whether or not you love God and keep his commandments. If your household, your workmen, are not better for your Christianity, then the truth has not wrought its designed work upon your soul. Let not your workmen say; "This man for whom we work has a queer sort of religion. There is no morning or evening prayers in his house.



The Family Time by Pastor Cameron Bowen

We begin and end the day with drudgery, and we have so much to do on the Sabbath that we can scarcely get time for secret prayer." *{ST, February 10, 1890 par. 5}*

History if filled with instances of prayerless lives, Godless homes and Christless church members.
ST, February 10, 1890 par. 7 says:

We should study the experience of past life, study it just as we study the proof-sheets of an article, to find the errors and to note them on the margin of the page. We should do this daily, and note our faults so that we may avoid them in the future. Do not forget to examine yourselves whether you are in the faith. Prove your own selves, for unless Christ is in you, you are reprobates. Reform every unchristlike action, seeking the Spirit of your divine Master. Take your hearts, by nature cold as an iron wedge, and let melting mercy fall upon them, that they may be subdued by the grace of God, and impressed by the Spirit with the image of your divine Lord. *{ST, February 10, 1890 par. 7}*

Children who are thus educated will ever be deficient in moral energy and individual responsibility. They have not been taught to move from reason and principle; their wills have been controlled by another, and the mind has not been called out, that it might expand and strengthen by exercise. They have not been directed and disciplined with respect to their peculiar constitutions and capabilities of mind, to put forth their strongest powers when required. Teachers should not stop here, but should give special attention to the cultivation of the weaker faculties, that all the powers may be brought into exercise, and carried forward from one degree of strength to another, that the mind may attain due proportions. *{FE 16.1}*

Many children, for want of words of encouragement, and a little assistance in their efforts in childhood and youth, become disheartened, and change from one thing to another. And they carry this sad defect with them in mature life. They cannot make a success of anything they engage in; for they have not been taught to persevere under discouraging circumstances. Thus the entire lifetime of many proves a failure because they did not have correct discipline. The education in childhood and youth not only affects their entire business career in mature life, but the religious experience bears a corresponding stamp. *{CE 15.2}*

- 50 percent of all marriages in which the brides are 25 or older result in a failed marriage. " *National Center for Health Statistics*
- 65 percent of altar-bound men and women live together before getting married. " *Bride's Magazine*
- Research indicates that people who live together prior to getting married are more likely to have marriages that end in divorce. " *The Boston Herald*
- A recent study on cohabitation concluded that after five to seven years, only 21 percent of unmarried couples were still living together. " *The Boston Herald*



So now we enter a school. For as long as life lasts for we never graduate.

1. As life with its burden of perplexity and care meets the newly wedded pair, the romance with which imagination so often invests marriage disappears.
2. Husband and wife learn each other's character as it was impossible to learn it in their previous association.
3. This is a most critical period in their experience. The happiness and usefulness of their whole future life depend upon their taking a right course now.
4. Often they discern in each other unsuspected weaknesses and defects; but the hearts that love has united will discern excellencies also heretofore unknown.
5. Let all seek to discover the excellencies rather than the defects.
6. Often it is our own attitude, the atmosphere that surrounds ourselves, which determines what will be revealed to us in another. *{AH 105.3}*

Spirituality May Be Killed by Criticism.--When you are tempted to speak cross words, pray for grace to resist the temptation. Remember that your children will speak as they hear you speaking. By your example you are educating them. Remember that if you speak cross words to fellow church members, you would speak the same kind of words in heaven, were you permitted to enter there. . . . {CG 551.1}