

The Family Time

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Isaiah 58:12 And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

The physical rebuilding of the temple is a symbol of the spiritual rebuilding of the heart and soul.

Whether superiors, inferiors, or equals, your work is to begin with your own heart. Humble yourself before God. Come into right connection with Him by yielding to the creating power of the Holy Spirit. Then will be seen in the church the unity that is of value in God's sight. There will be sweet harmony, and all the building, fitly framed together, will grow up into an holy temple in the Lord. The church will have that faith that shows that it is genuine because it works by love and purifies the soul. **A hand to hand and heart to heart interest will be shown in building up the old waste places.** {20MR 321.3}

The rebuilding of the heart and soul includes the restoration of the family relationship.

Christ did not come to this world to forbid marriage or to break down or destroy the relationship and influence that exist in the domestic circle. **He came to restore, elevate, purify, and ennoble every current of pure affection that the family on earth might become a symbol of the family in heaven.** *Manuscript 22, 1898*

It was not sufficient to rebuild only the temple, but the walls also were to be rebuilt. Listen to the counsel of *RH April 10, 1888.*

Build a wall of scriptures around you, and you will see that the world cannot break it down. Commit the Scriptures to memory, and then throw right back upon Satan when he comes with his temptations, "It is written." This is the way that our Lord met the temptations of Satan, and resisted them.--*RH April 10, 1888. {LDE 67.2}*

Listen to the book Education page 251.2

Happy the father and mother who can teach their children God's written word with illustrations from the open pages of the book of nature; who can gather under the green trees, in the fresh, pure air, to study the word and to sing the praise of the Father above. {*Ed 251.1*}

By such associations parents may bind their children to their hearts, and thus to God, by ties that can never be broken. {*Ed 251.2*}



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The wall of protection is of great importance. The enemy seeks to attack on every side. The wall must be rebuilt and maintained. Listen to *The Southern Watchman*, Feb. 23, 1904, p. 122.

Keep yourselves where the three great powers of heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, can be your efficiency. These powers work with the one who gives himself unreservedly to God. The strength of heaven is at the command of God's believing ones. **The man who takes God as his trust is barricaded by an impregnable wall.**--*The Southern Watchman*, Feb. 23, 1904, p. 122.

But we must be careful, lest our family worship becomes nothing more than dry formality. CG 518.3 says:

In many cases the morning and evening worship is little more than a mere form, a dull, monotonous repetition of set phrases in which the spirit of gratitude or the sense of need finds no expression. The Lord accepts not such service. But the petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit He will not despise. The opening of our hearts to our heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love --this is true prayer. {CG 518.3}

One more thing and this is an incredibly important matter. CG 520.2

Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray occasionally and, when you have a large day's work to do, neglect it. In thus doing you lead your children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence. Prayer means very much to the children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God morning and evening. Says the psalmist, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." {CG 520.2}