

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Psalms 33:10 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

In our last session we continued to take a look at the importance of the counsel of the Lord. This is the sort of counsel that is necessary for the development of our families, especially our children.

The Lord wants the hearts of these children from their very babyhood to be given to His service. While they are too young to reason with, divert their minds as best you can; and as they become older, teach them by precept and example that you cannot indulge their wrong desires. {CG 244.3}

Instruct them patiently. Sometimes they will have to be punished, but never do it in such a way that they will feel that they have been punished in anger. By such a course you only work a greater evil. Many unhappy differences in the family circle might be avoided if parents would obey the counsel of the Lord in the training of their children. {CG 244.4}

This responsibility, as I have said, has been given by God. This is not the rambling of some psycho babble.

- 1.** It is God's desire that parents should be to their children the embodiment of the principles laid down in His Word. . . .
- 2.** To keep the feet of their children in the narrow path will call for faithful effort and constant prayer, but it is possible to train the children and youth to love and serve God. . .
- 3.** It is possible to inculcate the principles of righteousness, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little, until the desires and inclinations of the heart are in harmony with the mind and will of God. {HP 212.4}

It can be accomplished. But first we must realize the importance of the work that has been set before us.

When fathers and mothers realize the responsibility resting upon them, and respond to the appeals of God's Spirit in behalf of this neglected work, there will be seen in the homes of the people transformations that will cause the angels to rejoice. {HP 212.5}



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Now I do recognize the weighty responsibility being described here. It will not be easy to accomplish, but you will accomplish it. Here's how you can begin.

1. Each morning consecrate yourself and your family to God for that day.
2. **Make no calculation for months or years, for they are not yours.**
3. **One brief day is given you, and that one day work for yourself and your family as though it were your last.**
4. **Surrender all your plans to God, to be carried out or given up, as His providence shall indicate.**
5. In this manner you may day by day be giving your life with its plans and purposes into the hands of God, accepting His plans instead of your own, no matter how much they may interfere with your arrangements nor how many pleasant projects may have to be abandoned.
6. Thus the life will be molded more and more after the divine Model; and "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." {HP 213.4}