

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, . . . and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. Genesis 12:7, 8 {ML 35.1}

In our last session we ended with this statement found in *My Life Today 35.4*

Parents, each morning consecrate yourselves and your family to God for that day. Make no calculation for months or years; these are not yours. One brief day is given you. As if it were your last on earth, work during its hours for the Master. Lay all your plans before God, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Accept His plans instead of your own, even though their acceptance requires the abandonment of cherished projects. Thus the life will be molded more and more after the divine Example. *{My Life Today 35.4}*

You may not see the results of these actions here on earth: In fact, listen to *My Life Today 35.5*

Eternity alone will reveal the good results with which such seasons of worship are fraught. *{My Life Today 35.5}*

This is the call that God makes to us today. If our families will be successful, then *Child Guidance*, page 518.4 says:

Let There Be Households of Prayer.--Like the patriarchs of old, those who profess to love God should erect an altar to the Lord wherever they pitch their tent. . . . Fathers and mothers should often lift up their hearts to God in humble supplication for themselves and their children. Let the father, as priest of the household, lay upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice, while the wife and children unite in prayer and praise. In such a household Jesus will love to tarry. *{CG 518.4}*

We miss a tremendous opportunity when we do not pray to God daily. We must understand that God has a supreme interest in every family. His attention is riveted to the members of the household.

Let the members of every family bear in mind that they are closely allied to heaven. The Lord has a special interest in the families of His children here below. Angels offer the smoke of the fragrant incense for the praying saints. Then in every family let prayer ascend to heaven both in the morning and at the cool sunset hour, in our behalf presenting before God the Savior's merits. Morning and evening the heavenly universe take notice of every praying household. *{CG 519.1}*



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The protection provided by God is something we just cannot do without,

Angels Guard Children Dedicated to God.--Before leaving the house for labor, all the family should be called together; and the father, or the mother in the father's absence, should plead fervently with God to keep them through the day. Come in humility, with a heart full of tenderness, and with a sense of the temptations and dangers before yourselves and your children; by faith bind them upon the altar, entreating for them the care of the Lord. Ministering angels will guard children who are thus dedicated to God. *{CG 519.2}*

So today, will you start with prayer?