

# The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



*2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

**God indeed wants our families to grow in grace. He knows that we are being challenged everyday by the enemy of souls. Therefore he provides the solution. Listen to the *Youth Instructor, Feb 3, 1898* .**

**Plants Do Not Grow Through Worry or Conscious Effort.**-- In place of growing anxious with the thought that you are not growing in grace, just do every duty that presents itself, carry the burden of souls on your heart, and by every conceivable means seek to save the lost. Be kind, be courteous, be pitiful; speak in humility of the blessed hope; talk of the love of Jesus; tell of his goodness, his mercy, and his righteousness; and cease to worry as to whether or not you are growing. Plants do not grow through any conscious effort. Jesus said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin." The plant is not in continual worriment about its growth; **it just grows under the supervision of God**. The children of God are to cease worrying, cease looking at themselves; they are to take an earnest interest in others, and seek to lead the feet of the straying in the narrow path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. In this kind of work they will gain breadth of thought, tact, and skill. They will realize that they are to become agencies through which God will convey the truth to other minds, and that they are never to be left alone in their efforts; for heavenly angels will work with them, and impress the hearts of those who hear. --*YI, Feb 3, 1898. (ML 103) {2MCP 471.4}*

**Frequently, after we are confronted by the flaws in our lives and our families, we become disappointed, anxious and begin to lose hope. How do we get rid of the anxiety that pervades?**

**Faith Dispels Anxiety.**--We are so anxious, all of us, for happiness, but many rarely find it because of their faulty methods of seeking, in the place of striving. We must strive most earnestly and mingle all our desires with faith. Then happiness steals in upon us almost unsought. . . . When we can, notwithstanding disagreeable circumstances, rest confidently in His love and shut ourselves in with Him, resting peacefully in His love, the sense of His presence will inspire a deep, tranquil joy. This experience gains for us a faith that enables us not to fret, not to worry, but to depend upon a power that is infinite.-- *{Lt 57, To Brother and Sister Hare, January 20, 1897. }* (ML 184) {2MCP 472.2}



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**Can we really be sure of God's promises? Can we really rely entirely on Him to fix that which has gone wrong in our lives and in our families?**

- 1.** The Lord's ways are unchangeable. He will do in our days as He has done in earlier days.
- 2.** They had less light in their day than we have in our day.
- 3.** With the Scriptures in our hand, and the example and blessing of those who were tempted and tried, we are nerved for the victory, expecting the same mercies from the same God as had the ancients.
- 4.** When the Christian is looking forward to duties and severe trials that he anticipates are to be brought upon him, because of his Christian profession of faith, it is human nature to contemplate the consequences, and shrink from the prospects, and this will be decidedly so as we near the close of this earth's history.
- 5.** We may be encouraged by the truthfulness of God's word that Christ never failed His children as their safe Leader in the hour of their trial; for we have the truthful record of those who have been under the oppressive powers of Satan, that His grace is according to their day. God is faithful who will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able. *{1888 490.4}*

Let every family seek the Lord in earnest prayer for help to do the work of God. Let them overcome the habits of hasty speech and the desire to blame others. Let them study to be kind and courteous in the home, to form habits of thoughtfulness and care. *{AH 438.4}*