

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Family worship is more than just an obligation that must be fulfilled. A burden that must be endured until at last it's done and we can get on to the things we really enjoy. Listen to *ST*, August 7, 1884 par. 8

The father, who is the priest of his household, should conduct the morning and evening worship. There is no reason why this should not be the most interesting and enjoyable exercise of the home life, and God is dishonored when it is made dry and irksome. Let the seasons of family worship be short and spirited. Do not let your children or any member of your family dread them because of their tediousness or lack of interest. When a long chapter is read and explained and a long prayer offered, this precious service becomes wearisome, and it is a relief when it is over. *{ST, August 7, 1884 par. 8}*

So how do you make family worship interesting? CG 521, 522 (1884) says:

1. Let the father select a portion of Scripture that is interesting and easily understood;
2. a few verses will be sufficient to furnish a lesson which may be studied and practiced through the day.
3. Questions may be asked, a few earnest, interesting remarks made, or [an] incident, short and to the point, may be brought in by way of illustration.
4. At least a few verses of spirited song may be sung, and
5. The prayer offered should be short and pointed.
6. The one who leads in prayer should not pray about everything, but should express his needs in simple words, and praise God with thanksgiving.--*CG 521, 522 (1884)*.

Please make sure that during family worship, or for that matter, worship in general, we speak clearly, expressing gratitude for all that God continues to do for us. Counsels to Parents Teachers and Students, Page 241.1 says:

1. I am pained as I see how little the gift of speech is appreciated. In reading the Bible, in engaging in prayer, in bearing testimony in meeting, how necessary is clear, distinct utterance! And
2. how much is lost in family worship when the one offering prayer bows the face down and speaks in a low, feeble voice!
3. But as soon as family worship is over, those who could not speak loud enough to be heard in prayer can usually speak in clear, distinct tones, and there is no difficulty in hearing what they say.
4. Prayer that is thus uttered is appropriate for the closet, but not edifying in family or public worship; for
5. Unless those assembled can hear what is said, they cannot say Amen.
6. Nearly all can speak loud enough to be heard in ordinary conversation, and why should they not speak thus when called upon to bear testimony or to offer prayer? *{Counsels to Parents Teachers and Students, Page 241.1}*



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Why is all this so important? Why prayer? Why worship each and every day? Here's why!! ST, August 7, 1884 par. 13 says:

- 1.** God has made earnest prayer the condition of the bestowal of his richest blessings.
- 2.** Prayer brings us nearer and nearer to Jesus.
- 3.** However fully we may have given ourselves to God at conversion, it is of no avail unless we renew our consecration in each separate duty as it presents itself.
- 4.** Dear reader, consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first business, even if you have to rise half an hour earlier in order to find time.
- 5.** Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly thine. I lay all my plans at thy feet. Use me today in thy service. Whatever errand I may do, send me. Whatever I may say to honor thee, or lead souls to Christ, help me to say it." *{ST, August 7, 1884 par. 13}*