

How to Have A Family Altar

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CHAPTER TWO

The Family Altar and the Blessing of His Presence

NOW WE SHALL LOOK at the family altar as a source of the greatest blessing of all, - the blessing of His presence. **"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"** (Matthew 18:20).

Notice He didn't say, "My peace," or "my joy," or "my faith"; He said, **"There am I."** And in His presence each member of the little family receives that blessing and grace of which they stand most in need.

I remember one couple who were standing on the very brink of divorce, and they came to the pastor who joined them in holy wedlock, thinking he might have some word that would save their fast-crumbling marriage. The pastor asked them if they had faithfully gathered together in His name to read His Word and pray at least once every day. They confessed that they had not.

Then the pastor said "Go home and make at least one more try to make your marriage beautiful as GOD meant it to be. This time however never allow a day to close without gathering around GOD's Word, reading a portion and then kneeling down to pray. That is my counsel. Do it and you will save your marriage. You see, you have forgotten a very important thing - a successful marriage is not a matter of two persons but of three persons. A successful marriage is not so much a matter of two people adjusting to each other, but of two people adjusting to a third person - CHRIST. For when two are right with Him, they will be right with each other."

On the fifth night that they met around GOD's open Word, by one of those sweet providences of GOD, the Bible came open at a most appropriate place. The husband started to read, **"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge: and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."**

The HOLY SPIRIT was working and the husband's words were coming more slowly, and his throat seemed to be filling up. With difficulty he read on, **"Charity suffereth long, and is kind."** **"Suffereth long, and is kind!"** He laid the Book down, put his arms around his wife and begged her forgiveness. He apologized for all the mean things he had said and done against her.

She broke down, too, and with tears flowing freely she asked his forgiveness for unkind things she had said and done. As this young couple sobbed for joy in each other's arms, they knew the

meaning of "**And where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**"

CHRIST recalled the love that they had once known for each other but had lost for a while!

Another wonderful thing happens when JESUS stands in the midst - we see our loved ones through Him, and Oh! how much better they look to us! When we see them through Him, we look so wrong and they look so right.

A man's wife never looks so wonderful and beautiful until he sees her in CHRIST's eyes of burning, pure love, and a woman's husband never looks so precious and fine as when she sees him through CHRIST's eyes. We love and understand our children so much better when He is in the midst, and we see them in the radiance of His light and love.

A man recently wrote me saying, "Sir, my wife and I have been married for twenty years, but this morning we had our first family worship. We sort of stumbled through it and we felt very self-conscious; but when we had said 'Amen' to the last prayer, we just threw our arms around each other and GOD seemed to open the windows of glory upon us. Oh! what an experience! It was the greatest joy of our whole married life. And now we realize that the greatest joy of a married life is that of worshiping GOD together in His name."

~ end of chapter 2 ~
