

How to Have A Family Altar

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CHAPTER ONE

The Family Altar and the Blessing of Power

ONE OF THE GREATEST BLESSINGS of the family altar is that of power.

JESUS said, "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:18-20).

I think JESUS had in mind the little praying families. He was looking down the vista of time at all those families that would daily gather together in prayer.

That power which was promised to praying families is infinitely greater than that which any earthly potentate could ever claim.

GOD didn't make the course and destiny of nations and of individuals dependent on the decisions of Congresses and Parliaments, nor did He lay this power in the hands of rulers and kings; but rather GOD placed it in the praying family! This is why the devil cannot ruin nations or men until he has destroyed the homes of prayer!

That's why Satan hates the family altar and the work of the Family Altar League! But for those homes and families that will not be discouraged there will be the daily manifestation of the apostolic power of GOD to bind and loose, to **"ask, [and] it shall be done . . ."**

A family on its knees, agreeing as touching anything, has power to claim anything within the will of GOD for nations, or individuals, or for the Church. In verse 19 GOD reveals that it is the agreement that is the key that releases the power of GOD. Where are we as likely to find such thorough-going agreement between minds and hearts as in the little Christian family, where hearts and lives are joined together by many cords of love, understanding, and shared experiences? Family altar homes are the first line of offense against the strongholds of the devil and are the last line of defense against complete chaos in nation, home, school, and the souls of men!

If we would get the families of believers back to the family altar, we would soon see the powers of darkness "bound" in Communism, Modernism, and in the Church, and the strongholds of Satan falling everywhere! We would see the HOLY SPIRIT loosed to bring the showers of revival blessings to the Church and spiritual awakening to the world! The fact is this is the principle of revival!

Often a mother or father will tell us that everyone in the family prays and reads God's Word, but not together.

"Isn't this all right or just as good?" they ask. And the answer is "No." Notice verse 20 as to the condition for claiming this power: **"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."**

Years ago Thomas Boston was burdened over the cold spiritual state of his church. It was not only cold, but practically empty. He decided that the way to bring revival to his church and community was to establish the family altar in every home. He went from home to home, leading people to CHRIST and establishing family altars. After nearly three years, revival fires were burning in his church, and multitudes of rejoicing saints and seeking sinners would crowd the church every Sunday!

Richard Baxter followed exactly the same procedure in his spiritually cold parish, with exactly the same results!

This is a sound principle of revival that never fails to achieve the blessed fruits of spiritual awakening!

It used to be that fifty per cent of professing Christians had a daily family altar of worship and prayer. When these praying families came together in church it was like "adding power to power," with the result that there was a mighty spirit of revival prevailing - souls were saved; the saints were blessed and edified; backsliders were restored and the whole community was shaken and brought under the convicting power of the HOLY SPIRIT. Nowadays it is estimated that only five per cent of professing Christians maintain daily family worship. It isn't enough that the churches we go to exalt CHRIST and teach the Word, the homes we come from must likewise exalt CHRIST and teach the Word. Families which ignore God and His Word six days a week will not be likely to know GOD in "**the power of his resurrection**" on the seventh day of the week!

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