

What is prayer—family prayer? and what does it imply? “Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to His will.” Family prayer refers to all our family needs, trials, and fears; it implies that we come to God as our reconciled God and Father, the God and Father of our family—that we come to him for pardon and acceptance. What motives and encouragements have we to engage in family prayer! If our affections and sympathies are in proper tone, we cannot but feel our mutual dependence. Parents who have the knowledge of God’s truth, and the hopes of acceptance with God in heaven, in any measure in their hearts, must feel their entire and constant dependence on God for life, and health, and every other blessing. Thus feeling their dependence on God, they should come daily to Him, to obtain all that they require. They are exposed to many accidents and dangers in their daily avocations, which God’s eye alone can foresee, and his hand only can ward off; or sustain under the stroke when it does come. But parents are not alone exposed to these visitations and trials. Their children are as much exposed to these as they are themselves. And how much of the happiness of parents depends on the life, health and happiness of their children and servants? We and they are safe, only so long as God protects us and them. Accidents will not, cannot befall us—dangers and temptations cannot reach us, so long, and only so long, as we find shelter under the shadow of his wings. (Ps. 90, 1-10.) But if we are to be safe from danger, or sustained under trials, we must come to God as our God and the God of our families, to obtain mercy and find grace to help us. But God’s protection is not all that we need for ourselves and ours. We are sinful beings, and exposed to temptations on every hand. The same corrupt nature that exists in us, exists in them. Both we and they need the restraining, quickening, and sanctifying grace of God; and can we expect this when we do not ask it from him? Is his protection so unimportant, as not to be worth asking? Does our mountain stand so strong, as never to be moved? Are our feet so firm, and our paths so even, that we have no need to pray—“Hold thou us up, and we shall be safe?” Oh, the hearts of those parents must be very callous, and their affections dead and indifferent to the best interests of their own souls and the souls of their children, who do not, both in secret and in their families, by prayer and supplication, let their requests be made known to God, who do not bear them in their hearts before God, and by prayer and supplication make their requests known for their children and servants.

(To be Continued.)

SUBSTANCE OF THE LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF
THE DIVINITY HALL OF THE U. P. CHURCH IN TORONTO

16th October, 1855.

BY THE REV. JOHN TAYLOR, M.D.

(Continued from page 7.)

We hope it will not be alleged, in reply to what has been said respecting the need of an improved mode of educating our candidates for the ministry, that though it is certainly impracticable, with the training we have hitherto had here, to produce preachers comparable to those reared in Scotland, yet such preachers are not required amongst us,—that the people here being, themselves, far less advanced in knowledge, and far less acute in intellect, are consequently, far less capable of appreciating learning and ability in their ministers, and quite disposed to be satisfied with what would be slighted and rejected at