

pensations are measured out to families as well as to individuals. These dispensations are intended for their benefit; and, where observed and improved, are, "made to work for their good." Some of the most tender and sanctifying influences are derived from this source, whereby God makes his people "meet for the inheritance of the saints in light." Has not the head of a family much to say to God, in representing their interests and feelings, in spreading out their case before Him who is the hearer of prayer, and in craving that himself and his house, by night and by day, may be under the protection of Jehovah? Does not God send to us, from time to time, domestic trials and afflictions? Is He not ever and again affording to us special family deliverances? Are we not, day by day, receiving, as families, innumerable benefits at the hand of God, for which we are called to bless his name? Have we not family sins which we are called daily to confess unto God? And shall all this be the case, and there be no voice, on our part, to give utterance at the throne of grace to those joys and sorrows, those cares and griefs, and varied anxieties we experience, as families, arising from the dealings of God? O! why should a parent, who loves his family, refuse to plead with God on their behalf, in common supplication, or decline to be the organ of their communication with God, for the purpose of expressing their wants, or giving utterance to their thanksgiving and praise? Why should any head of a family be silent when God is saying unto him, for his comfort and the comfort of those under his care, "In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God?" "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, to show forth His loving-kindness in the morning and his faithfulness every night." And,

4. The church has need of the prayers of her families, for the success of her ordinances, and the operations in which she is engaged for the spread of the gospel. When God blesses Zion, he makes all the dwellings round about it a blessing. From those dwellings is heard daily the voice of melody and joy, of thanksgiving and praise, of entreaty and supplication, as the inmates pour out their hearts before God, in contemplation of the varied aspects of his procedure towards his church. It is a happy sign of the state of the church, when "each family apart" takes a becoming interest in the church's affairs, and sends up prayers to God daily on her behalf. It is when such prayers ascend daily from the family altar, that we may expect that conversions will take place unto God, that God "will bless Zion's provision, and satisfy her poor with bread, and that the Holy Spirit will be poured out in rich effusion from on high, giving effect to the gospel and causing men everywhere throughout our earth "to see the salvation of God." And why should not every family belonging to our church engage, morning and evening, in this holy concert for prayer, supplicating a blessing on her ministers and rulers, her missionaries and teachers, her ordinances and operations, and on all, of every name, who are the called of God, and who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth? Shall the families of our church be trained from earliest years to contribute to our missions, and not be taught daily to pray to God for their success? We shall only rise to the grandeur of our missionary enterprise, when each family of our church, not less than each individual, is found resolving that