

things may not choke the Word and render it unfruitful. And I would earnestly exhort sister B. to encourage her husband to persevere in the practice of family prayer, to endeavour as well as she may to arrange her domestic affairs, and to control her domestic *temper* too, so as not to interfere with it; and if he appears to be forgetful, let her place the Bible upon the table, and if necessary give him an admonitory hint of his duty, and when the practice is persevered in for a length of time, a habit will be formed; and in religion as in other things it is important that habit should be in accordance with duty. Reading the Scriptures is a profitable and important part of family worship. There are many who uniformly sing a hymn, but do not *read the Scriptures*; the former may very properly be done, but the latter ought not to be left undone.

After hearing God speak in his Word, we are better prepared to speak unto God. The words of the Spirit will not quench the Spirit; we will not pray with less faith in God because we have just been reading the promises of God.

I agree with those who think it best to attend to morning prayer before the morning meal; fasting and prayer are often associated in the Scripture.

I have known some professors of christianity to attend breakfast, and then have prayer while a family of children have to fast till worship is over; making the children fast, while the parents pray, leaves them to think more about the breakfast than of the prayer, and has also a tendency to produce a dislike for the exercise altogether; but if the parents would themselves wait for breakfast until after prayer, the children would also be contented to wait.

Thanksgiving is a part of prayer, but are there not some disciples who tell God that they thank him, but tell to man quite a different story? To the latter, their language is full of murmuring and complaining; and distress every one around them with their endless repinings at their condition. Inconsistencies similar to this, you may oft have observed at table; the good man of the house will give thanks to God for his bounty in supplying the table with food convenient for them, and then immediately turn to his guest and tell him he is sorry that they have such poor entertainment for him, as the fare is so very plain. It is like thanking a prince for his gift, and then before his face, turning to the people and complaining that the gift is so worthless; and some will apologize to their guests in this way, even when the fare is really excellent, and appear to do it for the sake of catching compliments, as Pope observes of some young lady who

“In hope of contradiction oft would say:  
Methinks I look most horrible to-day.”

Some appear to think that prayers are excellent in proportion to their length. Such, instead of edifying their families, tire, and sometimes disgust them. Those individuals should remember that our Father knows what we have need of before we ask him. And as he is in heaven and we on earth therefore our words ought to be few. And we are told by the highest authority, that we shall not be heard for our much speaking. And now lest I may not be read