

fully examine themselves before the Lord—confess their sins—pray for strength to combat the world, the flesh, and the devil—pray for their enemies—for all men and for all saints.

Much has been said and written relative to the edification of the congregations of the Lord—bringing forward the various gifts possessed by the members—public and social prayer and exhortation—and also the necessity of a greater number of Evangelists; and much more might be added, and the great importance of these duties, then, not fully disclosed. But where duties so obvious as these are neglected—where professed disciples of the Lord can have their attention frequently called to these things and yet no good effects result, there is something back of all this present duty that is neglected! Where strife, division, ill will, censoriousness, and unkind spirits manifest themselves among those who profess to be guided by the book; write it down for certain that such persons do not live and walk with God—they seldom if ever retire to their closets to examine their thoughts, motives, words and actions in the light of the New Covenant, and, as in the presence of Jesus Christ. It is this lack of secret devotion and devout reading of God's word that makes us so weak and sickly—so inefficient in all our efforts in his cause. Had Israel refused to gather and eat manna sent by Heaven to nourish and strengthen them, they had all died. They must gather it every day too! Astonishing that Christians—especially those who boast of their reverence for God's word—will not learn that they too must feed on God's word in prayer, meditation and by doing his will every day in order to advance in their journey towards the heavenly Canaan. How many endeavor to live on the ordinances of the Lord's day and the Lord's house for a week and a month! and then surprised at their leanness!! The wonder is that they do not die outright! What hypocrites! Pretend—yea, pledge themselves, before God from week to week to be guided by his word—and never spend an hour in secret prayer and devout reading of his word! Many such complain of the waywardness of their children—their losses—want of success in business and various trials, and yet they refuse to acknowledge God in any of their ways, and seldom pray that their paths may be directed by Him.

Many neglect reading the Scriptures and prayer in their families. We are pained at least to testify that we have known a few overseers of the congregations of the Lord who had no other form of religion in their families but a stale "grace before meat." But O how cold—how heartless—how destitute of the holy unction were all their