

Be consistent. "Behave yourself wisely in a perfect way. Walk within your house with a perfect heart." If you be devout in prayer, and unholy in practice ; if you be heavenly-minded at the hour of worship, and frivolous, or proud, or passionate all the day ; if you teach your children in the morning, "Be not conformed to this world," and if half the day's lessons be designed to conform them to the world as nearly as possible ; if you pray for your household that you may be all meek, and gentle, and kindly-affectioned one to another, and then treat your servants as haughtily as if they were your slaves or your enemies ; your contradictory prayers and practices will be a terrible stumbling-block in their way to the kingdom. Do you hesitate ? What is your excuse ?

"I never saw the advantages you describe. It has always been a dull service wherever I have seen it." But *you* need not make it dull. Throw your whole heart and soul into it, and it will be lively enough. It is often dull because it is a mere form. Do *you* make it a living service, and it will not be dull. It is often dull because it is tedious. Do not spin it out. Better one paragraph of scripture, feelingly and intelligently read, than a whole chapter listlessly drawled over. Better a prayer no longer than the publican's, if the whole soul be in it, than a weary form without feeling. Be fervent, and you will not be dull. Family prayer has often been so conducted, that instead of wearying at it, children felt it a punishment to be excluded. I was once told of a cottage patriarch who was born in those days when Scotland had a church in almost every house. There was one in his father's dwelling, and when he pitched a tent for himself, he builded an altar. Round that altar a goodly number