

and done and suffered for their sakes ; their feelings are strongly excited by his death and sufferings, his triumph over death and the grave, and his ascension up into heaven. The love and affection manifested by this blessed Person for all mankind, assimilates itself so completely with the dispositions of the supplicants, that they approach him in their hearts, with the most sincere affection ; they discover, from experience, that religion is not cold and heartless, but animating and engaging ; they rejoice in communicating with their blessed Saviour, whom they now feel a pleasure in loving, and in whose life they are most deeply concerned.

Nor are the advantages greater to the younger than to the older part of such an amiable household ; the former experience, more and more, the delight of giving themselves to prayer ; they know that every true Christian is a man of prayer. This is the middle between the devotions of the closet and public worship, concentrating the wishes and feelings more than the latter, and giving us a new interest in the welfare of those, to whom we are, from blood and knowledge, more intimately attached. We are encouraged in the performance of this most animating duty, by the precious words of Christ, " I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth, touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

In family prayer, we can be more particular than public worship admits, for the members are more closely united, their wants are more nearly the same ; they can join with more fervency in requesting God to supply them, if for their good ; their sins are sometimes in common, and therefore, they unite more earnestly in begging their remission, upon the condition of sincere repentance ; they are suffering under family afflictions, in which all participate, and therefore, join in supplicating a speedy deliverance ; they are returning thanks for family mercies which they have experienced. These and many other things may be mentioned in family prayer, with much edification, that cannot enter into public prayer, because it must always be general. The very circumstance of assembling every day to worship God, cannot fail of producing good effects upon every member of the household ; religion appears as it ought, not an occasional, but a daily obligation.

The advantages of Family Worship not only spring from