

The Home Life

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The home life is one of the most important places in the life of every human being. God Himself originated the home life from the very beginning. His first act after the creation of Adam was to create a helper or companion for him. This was the beginning of the home life. It was a perfect home where perfect peace, harmony, perfect love, and happiness reigned supreme. The reason for this ideal condition was that they were under the full control of God Himself.

A great change took place in this home. Instead of perfect peace and happiness, there came deep sorrow and anguish of heart in its place. The cause of this great change is made plain to us. Satan told Adam and Eve that if they would disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit, they would become like God, be as wise as He is, knowing good and evil, and would be able to do all that God had done or could do. They believed this lie of Satan, disobeyed God, and came under the full control of Satan himself. This brought about a complete change in their characters. When Satan got possession of them, their natures became "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" as we are told in Jeremiah 17:9.

This terrible wicked character is brought out in more detail throughout the Bible, especially in Romans 1:21-32. Instead of loving and trusting God alone for everything as they did in the Garden of Eden, they lost all understanding of God's nature or characteristics. Instead of loving God, they hated Him. Instead of trusting in God, they could trust only in themselves or some other human person or plan.

The result of being under the control of Satan and depending completely on themselves was soon revealed in the home

life. Two sons were born to Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. In the course of time, Satan used one of these sons to murder the other, who then became a vagabond or wanderer on the face of the earth. Here we find among the first results of man's fall and becoming controlled by Satan, a father and mother deprived of their only two children.

Every human being born since this terrible fall of our first parents has been born under the control of Satan. The greatest and worst indication of this is to totally ignore God and depend entirely on themselves for everything they need and desire in this present life. This attitude towards God and depending upon themselves is the center and foundation of Satan's control. It is also the cause of all the trouble there ever has been in any life in the entire world and in the world as a whole. And it is the cause of every evil thing that Satan has ever done. It is also the root and foundation of all other sins.

God sent His only Son into this world to open the way and provide the power for every human being to come back to God, and to be controlled by His power the same as in the Garden of Eden. Through His death and resurrection life and power we have been given a legal right to have the full power of God for everything we need and desire in this present life from the least to the greatest. God has taken it upon Himself to lead every precious soul that is willing, away from Satan's power and control and bring them back under His full power and control, where they will become perfectly happy again, be delivered and protected from every evil thing, perfected in everything that pertains to their life here and best of all, prepared for eternal life.

The entire world is divided into two classes or groups. One class is under the control and influence of Satan, the other under the control and influence of God. There is no neutral or middle ground where a

person could be under the control of neither. The Bible teaches, and it is also very plain to every observer, that the great majority of the human race is under the control of Satan and more completely, if possible, in the closing days of the Gospel Age. The Bible also teaches that the number of people in all Ages who would get back under the control of God would be few, and far less as the coming of Jesus draws near. Jesus said that the spiritual condition of people, and we believe we are safe in also accepting His proportion in numbers, would be like the days of Noah and the days of Lot, as the Gospel Age comes to a close. There were only eight saved at the time of the Flood in 2848 B. C. and only three in the days of Lot, 1921 B. C.

People under the control of Satan are classified by Jesus and by John, Paul, and many other Bible writers. Paul tells us in the 2nd chapter of Ephesians that Satan is the spirit that worketh in every son of disobedience. This means that anyone who is not living according to God's Word and will is under the control of Satan. Simply because they do not know it does not mean that it is not true. Anyone who has not surrendered to God would never know that their lives are under the control of Satan, because Satan always works under cover and his greatest asset is to hide his identity. John tells us in the 5th chapter of his first epistle, verse 19, that "the whole world lieth in wickedness." The original adds a word to this and gives it to us exactly as it is meant-"the whole world lieth under the control of the Evil One."

God has proven both in teaching and practice how deeply He is interested in the peace and harmony of every home and the salvation of all members of every household. Satan, on the other hand, has proven beyond all doubt how deeply interested he is in disturbing the peace and upsetting and destroying the harmony and

happiness in every home that will give him a strong position.

God's Word gives us a plan for perfect peace and harmony in the home and how Satan's power may be broken and eliminated. This also includes the salvation of every loved one. Accepting God's plan for our homes and becoming victorious will not only bring the valuable results that were in the Garden of Eden but will also bring the most valuable spiritual blessing to the member or members of that household who meet God's easy conditions, which will enable Him to control the home and every loved one. As we have said, one of the first indications that the self-life or of the life of self-effort is in control in the home is revealed by one of the strongest pillars and supports of the self-life which is to use our own efforts, such as resentment, worry, and self-effort to cause the members of our household to act as we would like them to and do as we desire. Therefore, anyone who is willing to lay aside this important place of Satan's control and these efforts of the fallen self-nature to make peace in the home, will deal a most potential deathblow to their self-life and a corresponding increase of the Christ-life. This result to the individual who meets God's easy conditions is of far greater importance than even peace in the home, however valuable that might be. Therefore, the home is one of the most valuable places to die to self and grow and develop spiritually.

People usually act naturally in the home. In other words, their true inward character is revealed in the home. They will say and do things there that they would not want any other outside human being to know. This being the case, if self and Satan have control of a person, it will come to the surface more quickly in the home than any other place.

For instance, the wife of an important member and official of one the most

influential denominational churches in Philadelphia told a story of mean treatment and of wicked acts and doings in the home by this church man more filthy and wicked than perhaps we had heard before; while to outsiders he appeared and acted as one of the nicest and kindest persons. One day this wife was standing among a group of women who belonged to the same church. One of them remarked to her, "You are to be envied above all other women in this church." She was quite surprised and asked her why. She said, "Because of the lovely and wonderful husband that you have." Later on, she received a letter from a friend of hers, a maiden lady, saying that she heard that she had been very happily married and that if she herself could find the same kind of man, she would get married too. This shows how differently people act in the home and outside.

The Bible clearly reveals that the cause of all home troubles and every other kind of trouble is from Satan's control, which is caused by the use of human efforts to make the members of their household act to please them. Every human being was created to go by God's power, and the very moment that we Christians in the home learn under the teaching of God to lay aside our human, fleshly efforts and instead learn to depend completely upon God to deliver our loved ones from Satan's control and make them act as we would like them to, we will have perfect victory in our homes and our loved ones will be quickly saved. And as we have met the easy conditions, we will receive, as we have said, the greater and more valuable spiritual blessing that is involved.

The first condition of having God's power and control in the home is for the professing Christian or Christians in that home to be right with God themselves. This means to have truly repented or confessed and forsaken every sin and had a real

change of heart. 1st John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Secondly, to have surrendered their lives fully to God without reservation and to have received the Holy Spirit. Romans 12: 1-2 "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Luke 11:13. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Third, to live and meet things according to God's Word, which will mean to stop trying to get what we would like to have by our own efforts and trust in the living God alone for what we need and desire in this present life, including our home.

The conditions for victory in the home are delightfully easy, and any real Christian can meet them without any difficulty, The first is to put the blame where it really belongs, not upon the person in the home who is making the trouble, whether it is husband, wife, or child, but upon Satan himself who is really the direct cause of any and all home trouble. If we allow him to work under cover by blaming the person instead of him, it will give him a much better chance to hold on. However, the moment that we see that this trouble is directly from Satan, our victory is more than half won. Satan will not work in the open, always under cover. And the moment he is discovered, like any other thief or liar, he is ready to flee. It would be the same as if someone was hit by a snowball, and they would blame the snowball. No one would think of being so foolish. They always deal with the person that threw it.

The next condition is to not resent anything our loved ones might say or do that displeases us. Resentment means that we do not forgive from the heart every person who has sinned against us. Jesus said in

Mark 11:25 that if we did not forgive from the heart everyone their trespasses, neither would our Heavenly Father forgive us our trespasses. He made this even clearer with the parable of the unforgiving servant in the 18th chapter of Matthew, verses 23-35. The moment I resent or hold the least hard feeling against any member of my family or anyone else, every sin that I have ever committed is charged up against me, for the time being at least. This includes the slightest resentment. God meant that we should not only forgive but forget and treat our loved ones and everybody else exactly the same as if the mean treatment had not happened at all. In fact, we are to be more kind and loving to them than if it had not happened. Romans 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good."

The next correction is that every human fleshly effort to make the members of our household do as we would like them to must be laid aside finally and forever, including all arbitrary or random punishment. All scolding and complaining must also be laid aside finally and forever and every member of our household placed in God's hands to stay, for Him to deliver them from Satan's power and make them act exactly as we would like them to, and to bring them to Himself and into the Truth. All worry and anxiety about them also is to be laid aside. This is made very plain to us in Philippians 4:6-7, where we are told not to worry about anything, but instead to place it in God's hands for Him to handle. He said that one of the first results would be that His own peace would take possession of us, and you remember Jesus said that when His disciples went into any home and one son of peace lived there, God's peace would come upon that home.

All worry is directly from Satan and when we worry, it is because we believe his lies, dark pictures, and evil suggestions about the future. Worry gives Satan a

chance to work, but when we refuse to worry and rest in God's great peace, which is our Blood-bought right, Satan is shut out and God is enabled to work effectively and completely.



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