

The Home Life

(Pt 2)

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Previously, we were reminded that all worry is directly from Satan and when we worry, it is because we believe his lies and suggestions. Worry gives Satan a chance to work, but when we refuse to worry and instead rest in God's great peace, which is our Blood-bought right, Satan is shut out, and God is enabled to work effectively.

Satan's delight is to make trouble between husband and wife, parents and children, and he will be able to do so wherever God's conditions are not met, which means to depend on the living God alone for every member of our household as well as everyone and everything else that concerns us. It is our Blood-bought right to have the full benefit of God's entire power, love, mercy, and wisdom. He is always with us and at our service just as freely as the air we breathe, and the moment that we are willing to meet these easy conditions, we can ask, believe, and receive anything we need and desire for our home and loved ones.

Matthew 7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" John 16 "And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Mark 11 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Human writers say that children should be treated at least as kindly and considerately as the most honored guest that might be visiting us. However, in most cases the treatment is just the opposite. If an honored guest broke a cherished piece of dinnerware, the husband and wife would try in every way to make light of it. They would suggest that such things happen. "We never think

a thing of it. Just forget it. It is nothing at all." However, if one of our children should break this valued piece of dinnerware, there would be much scolding, harsh words, complaining, and threats or actual punishment. Such actions are directly opposite to what they should be from any standpoint. A child is more sensitive and more easily impressed by the kind of treatment that they receive than older, hardened adults. Impressions of childhood last a lifetime in most cases. It is wrong treatment that aggravates and develops Satan's control of children.

We have parents tell us that the more they try to train and control their children, the worse they seem to be getting. They are stubborn, disobedient, quarrelsome, and are doing directly opposite to what they would like them to do. This is solely because the parents have turned their back on God for the control of their children and are trying by their own efforts to make these children act right. It is God's will that children should be under the control of their parents. They should honor and obey them, always willing to do exactly as the parent would like them to.

The great question is, how is this to be accomplished, by random fleshly efforts as Satan would like us to or are we to go before God in repentance and faith and trust Him to break Satan's power over our children and control them by His Spirit and to make them as we would like them to be. If we do this and continue to trust God to control them; we will have perfect peace in our home; our children will come into the Truth, and the Garden of Eden in our homes would be restored.

Many parents are often ready to refuse any request that a child may make—even requests that could easily be granted without any harm to anyone. They also have a habit of always using the word "don't" from morning till night.

Every child is naturally active and needs to be kept occupied. If a parent carelessly lets them go adrift as far as guiding them is concerned, they are likely to get into trouble. On the other hand, if we would use divine wisdom and keep them occupied with something harmless, Satan would not have the opportunity that he otherwise would have.

Furthermore, it is not wise from any standpoint to compel a child to do something by force. We have had parents ask, "Suppose I tell a child to do something and they point-blank refuse to do it. Should I just let them go or should I force them to?" We should do neither. If the parent is right with God themselves, as we have said, and

have asked Him to cast Satan out of their children and are really trusting Him alone to do this, no such circumstance could arise—a child would always be willing to do as they are told. We are to always trust God to make our children obey us when we tell them to do anything, instead of our own human efforts. God's Word tells us in Colossians 3 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." "In the name of the Lord Jesus" means that we are to depend on the power in back of that great name to accomplish what we desire when we ask anybody to do something for us, especially our children, and even our husband or wife.

We have some valuable examples in the Bible, and we can have the same experiences today. In Mark 5, we find the net results of human effort, resentment, and worry. A husband and perhaps the father of children we find living in a graveyard, naked, fighting with everybody that passed by, screaming night and day, and cutting himself with stones. Human efforts no doubt began in the home, then in the neighborhood and then with the authorities. Everything had been said and done to change him to the utmost limit of human effort, but with sad results.

Jesus crossed the lake to meet this man. He came out of the tombs to fight and quarrel with Jesus. Jesus never used the slightest human effort. In fact, He did not deal with the man at all, either in word or deed. All Jesus did was first, to ask the man his name and then deal with the demons that controlled him, and then He cast them out. In a few minutes, the man was clothed, restored to his right mind, and his only desire was to follow Jesus and to be always with Him. However, Jesus told him that he was to go home to his folks and let them see what great things the Lord had done for him and how He had compassion on him.

It is very significant where this great deliverance was accomplished---in a graveyard where all resentment, worry, self-effort and random methods had been laid aside forever, the last worry gone, and the last human effort made. This was an ideal place for Jesus to work. And He did so effectively. This example makes it plain just how the teaching of the Scriptures in the home-life is to be applied. It also places the whole responsibility upon every real Christian in every household for

the peace of their home and the salvation of every unsaved loved one.

We have another valuable example in Matthew 15, which shows how easily a parent can have their children delivered from Satan's power and control. Jesus and His disciples probably walked sixty miles, spending valuable time to get in touch with this woman, which was the only thing He did on this visit to the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. But it was one of the most wonderful meetings that was ever held. Although there were thirteen preachers, we might say that they went and only one person was in the audience. It was far more valuable than all the thousands of people at the humanly planned religious meetings that were ever held.

As soon as Jesus and His disciples arrived, a woman came and asked that her daughter be delivered from the Devil's power. He answered her not a word. She continued to cry after Him. The disciples asked Him to send her away, but He turned and said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Because this woman was a Gentile, the statement Jesus made was equivalent to saying that there was no use for her to seek help for her daughter at that time at least. But she refused to accept this and appealed again to Him to have mercy and help her.

Then He said something else that seemed on the surface to be even more discouraging. He said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs." He meant that if He healed her daughter before the Jewish daughters were delivered, it would be like a man taking the dinner that had been prepared for his children and giving it to the dogs of the street. Even then she did not give up, but made another plea, saying that was true, "yet the dogs get a full meal from the scraps after the children are fed." Jesus then said to her, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." She accepted this bare word as sufficient evidence and went home and found her daughter as she really expected, fully delivered.

There was a very meager claim in the last statement that Jesus made to her. It is what we would call the relationship claim. This means that wherever God has expressed in His Word the relationship that exists between Him and His people, we have a right to claim all that that relationship would imply in the best human relationship.

For instance, when God tells us that He is our Father, it means at the very least that He is obligated to do everything the best human father would do. When He says that He is our shepherd, it would obligate Him to do everything the best shepherd would do in taking care of the sheep. It means the same in every other relationship that is expressed in the Scriptures. In this case, the most meager relationship was expressed and that was the relationship between a strange man and a stray dog. What would a strange man give to a strange dog? The privilege of eating out of the garbage pail or any scraps that fell from the family table. Standing on such a meager Scriptural claim is why Jesus said to her what He never said to any other person in the entire Bible, "O woman, great is thy faith."

We have another valuable example in Mark 9 where a man came to Jesus to have Satan's power broken over his son. Jesus just asked him how long the child had been in this condition. He said, "Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us." Jesus answered him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, "Lord, I do believe; help thou mine unbelief." Then Jesus cast the devil out of the child, and the evil spirit convulsed him and gave him probably one of his most severe attacks. But he had to come out and the child lay as if he were dead, and some of the people said he was dead. However, Jesus lifted him up and restored him to his father, alive and fully delivered.

In these examples we find the principles and easy conditions of victory in the home-life. In Mark 5 where devils are cast out, we see the results of human efforts being laid aside for ever. Matthew 5 reminds us to go to God direct and refuse to give up but settle it finally and for ever to go through to perfect victory, making our decision final to trust in God alone. Mark 9 where the demoniac boy is healed reminds us that we are to believe that God has delivered us and given us the perfect victory the moment we have asked for it. This is according to the three promises we have already mentioned in Matthew 7; John 16; Mark 11.

We have proven this in the Work here. One day a woman came to us and said that she could not stand her husband any longer. She had been healed herself of epileptic fits but seemed to be a

weak, wavering Christian, not developed much and susceptible to believing Satan's lies. What this woman meant by not being able to go any longer was that something should be done to her husband in a human way. He would never earn a penny for the support of the family and even picked the carpet off the floor to pawn it for drink, also cursing, swearing, and beating the children for no real reason. And to climax his terrible doings, the wife said that she was afraid to leave his own daughters, who had reached the ages of twelve and fourteen, with him while she went out to work and earn what little support they had.

I asked this woman if she would give God another chance to deliver her. She cast her eyes towards Heaven in the most hopeless gesture that you could imagine. She thought that if the Heavens fell out, nothing could be done for such a monster as He was. However, she finally agreed, and we prayed for the devil to be cast out of this man.

Using Mark 11 "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith," the one thing that we said in the name of Jesus Christ in that meeting was that the devil had to get out of that man.

The next night this man came to church with his wife. When we saw him come in, I must confess that I thought he was so drunk that he did not know what he was doing. He hated this church and the Truth that we taught, as the devil himself hates it. He had told his wife that he would seriously harm her if she ever came to this church again. She did not accept and continued to come.

After the meeting, I ventured to ask his wife what it all meant. "Oh," she said, "he is a changed man. He came home yesterday afternoon like an angel from Heaven. He has been acting kind and loving ever since and came to this meeting of his own choice and in his right mind to give his heart to God."

This man then went to work to support his family, and everything continued to improve until they had a lovely home.

Another member came to me and said, "I cannot stand to live like I am any longer. My husband has not worked for over a year and a half. I have tried to make a living by keeping boarders and doing all my own work, or most of it. Now the time has come when I cannot meet expenses."

“Well,” I said, “Sister, it is all your own fault.” This seemed to shock her, and I said, “I will prove it to you. Who makes your husband act like he does?”

She said, “The devil.”

I said, “That is true. Well, the devil is on his side. Now who is on your side?”

She said, “God.”

“Well, then,” I said, “if God and the devil got into a fight, which one would conquer?”

“Oh,” she said, “God, of course.”

Then I said, “The reason that it is your fault is because you have never given God a chance to fight this battle for you. You have worried about it. You have resented the way that your husband acts, and you have put the blame on him instead of the devil.”

“Now,” I said, “if you forgive him from the heart and put the blame where it belongs, we can kneel together in prayer according to Matthew 18 where God says ‘if two of you shall agree together concerning anything they shall ask on earth, it shall be done for them by My Father which is in Heaven.’” So, we prayed briefly, telling God that that man had to go to work and earn a living for his family. In a few days he did go to work to support his family.

The most important thing involved in all these things is our preparation for eternal life. The spiritual blessing involved in getting these deliverances or any other victories in God’s way are of much more importance than the victories themselves, however valuable they may be. These things prove again that God has never changed and is no respecter of persons. Anything that He ever did for anyone in the Bible, He will do for us today when we give Him the same chance or meet the same easy conditions. It also proves again that Jesus came, first of all, to deliver us out of all the sins, sorrows, diseases, and poverty of this present life and to restore the Garden of Eden in our lives. It is also a Scriptural fact that the only pathway to eternal life is to get our victories and deliverances and be overcomers in all things in this life.

This is even more important when it seems that the coming of Jesus is so near, when our possibilities of growth and development and of being prepared for eternal life are becoming so limited. You remember that Jesus said that toward the end of the Gospel Age that nation would rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. He plainly said, “When these things begin to come to

pass, then look up, for your redemption draweth nigh,” He also said that this would be a sign that He was at the very door.



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