

you ever noticed that the Spirit commonly fell on groups of believers in the early church. The several accounts in The Acts of the Apostles shows this.

It is not necessarily accusing a believer of backsliding to invite him to experience a new infilling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Ghost both empties and fills. We leave the work with Him. But let us not fear the Spirit and His work. Nor let us fear His continuing work in the hearts of those already sanctified.

Yes, beloved, He still gives the Holy Spirit to "those who continue to ask for Him." That includes you and me. We are asking and we will receive.

WE SHARED OUR FAMILY WORSHIP

It was one of those days when there just did not seem to be enough hours for all that had to be done. Our teenagers had been picking berries all day to earn money for college. The nine-year-old was tired, hot, and irritable. Even puppy had chosen this day to be rough with our two-year-old, who squealed and cried when puppy teeth left marks on his legs.

Daddy looked tired, for the machinery had caused trouble at the mill. And Mother was almost ready to give up.

After the evening meal, Mother wanted to get all four weary youngsters in bed immediately after baths before her nerves collapsed. It wouldn't make much difference if we missed family worship one evening, would it?

Before a final decision was reached, a friend of Mother's came to visit. Now that was the answer, wasn't it? Daddy looked at Mother, and she looked at Daddy.

Daddy said, "Let's get the children settled in the living room."

Mother's friend joined in family worship that evening. She did not quote a Bible verse, but she did sing a little. Mother wondered what her friend thought.

Two days later she had her answer. The friend wrote a letter, and I'm going to share part of it with you:

"I want to say thank you for asking me to join your family devotions last night. I really felt that it was a privilege. It made me feel as if I belonged. Many times I have wanted to tell you not to let me stop you, but I thought perhaps you would rather not go ahead with devotions when I was there. I feel that I should have told the children last night that they are very lucky. Their parents are giving them the privilege of learning just what God can mean in their lives. When they get older they can have a sure anchor as memories take them back to family worship. The memories I have of worship experiences with my grandmother when I was a child have been very precious to me."

There have been other times when we have shared our family worship. The girl next door is about the same age as our teens. The three of them used to take turns staying all night with one another. Some of those evenings proved to be very important to our neighbor, we soon learned.

After joining us one night in reading God's Word, singing hymns, repeating Bible verses and praying, she said, "I wish my mother and daddy would pray and have family worship."

Today that girl and her mother are Christians.

One summer evening strange sounds could be heard outside our open living room door. Someone was praying in a foreign language. It was Mother's pen-friend from Japan. He had come to the States to study, and was visiting for two weeks in our home. He waited until each of us had prayed in English before he prayed in Japanese.

Yes, he could speak English quite well, but he explained, "Missionaries often say funny things when they are

learning our language. I would not want to say something funny while I was praying and cause you to laugh during prayer."

The foreign mission field came very close to our house during those two weeks. When we heard our Japanese friend read his favorite Scripture passages and sing hymns of praise with us in English, the truth of being one in Christ became real to us.

Have you shared your family worship? Perhaps worship in your home has become matter-of-fact, a dull routine, just something to be done quickly before the tired children are tucked in bed, or conducted only when there is nothing else to do.

If you share your family worship whenever possible, not only will your appreciation for this experience be renewed, but from oldest to youngest, concern for others will grow until Christ's command to "go" is obeyed.

—Selected.

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

by Kenneth Taylor

(Material supplied by

National Sunday School Association)

If you were brought up in a Christian home, you will know why I say that a Christian home is even more important than the Sunday school.

And that does not discount Sunday schools at all. They are the Lord's wonderful second-best for children from non-Christian homes; and a powerful supplementary diet for children from homes where the Lord Jesus is loved. No movement within the organized church has had such results in conversions and in life-building, despite the hour-a-week limitation.

But there lies the secret of the Christian home. It has a round-the-clock, daily opportunity, and is able to nurture young plants and bring them on to sound, balanced living, and loving, total commitment to Jesus Christ.

And therein lies also its great danger. For out of Christian homes have come children who have grown up permanently warped, deformed, hardened, and spiritually brutalized.

HERE'S WHAT A CHRISTIAN HOME CAN DO

First, a Christian home can give a child a happily-receptive attitude to gospel truth. After all, a child believes what his parents do. If he is brought up in a strong Roman Catholic home, he will be a strong Roman Catholic. And if he is brought up in a strong evangelical Protestant home, he will be a strong evangelical Protestant. There are few exceptions.

To a superficial observer it may seem that therefore there is no solid basis for decisions, and that we are merely products of our environment. And, actually, this is pretty much true. We do not decide these things as children because of logic or truth, but are "victims" of our emotional environment and of our strong and natural approval of whatever our parents believe. And so the child brought up in the Christian home is blessed beyond all others, since he often automatically adopts the Christian point of view—the truth.

And that is why the Christian home is so important. It brings about an automatic favorable response to the gospel and the proper attitude in Christian living.

The statistical result can be enormous. Canada, for instance, now has a large Catholic population. That was not so a few years ago, but is today because of the Catholic emphasis on large families and the Protestant emphasis on small ones; and thus year by year and generation by generation the proportion in the population grows in geometric proportion.

Or take India as another example. Today there are

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