

**A WEEK'S COURSE OF
PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES. WITH
A PREFATORY DISCOURSE ON
FAMILY DEVOTION**

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A week's course of prayers for families. With a prefatory discourse on family devotion by Andrew R. Bonar

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ANDREW R. BONAR

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A Week's Course of Prayers for
Families.

WITH A PREFATORY DISCOURSE

OR

FAMILY DEVOTION.

BY THE

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PREFACE.

DEVOTION to the service of God is the duty of every Christian who owes to Him the powers he has and the blessings he enjoys; who has been kept from danger by the care of God, and has to ply his daily calling; having to meet influences not favourable to godliness; who feels his weakness, but yet believes that he has a friend within the veil,—*Jesus*, the SON OF GOD.—“*Ask*,” the Saviour said, “and it shall be *given* to you; *SEEK*, and ye shall *find*; *KNOCK*, and it shall be *opened* to you: for every one that *ASKETH*, *receiveth*; and he that *SEEKETH*, *FINDETH*; and to him that *KNOCKETH*, it shall be *OPENED*.”

“*Pray without ceasing*,” is the injunction given by an apostle. The meaning is, that devotion should not be occasional, but *habitual*;—that no act should be done, and no thought entertained, on which God’s blessing cannot be asked; and that, as always needing light and

direction, the Christian should have recourse to all-sufficient help. Not many words are needed, —but a prayerful spirit is essential.

Besides prayer, helps to godliness will be found in *devout meditation* and *careful reading of Scripture*, with such aids to the understanding and studious perusal of the Word as may be readily obtained. The notes of BARNES are in some respects valuable. For the more learned, BLOMFIELD or ALFORD deserve to be recommended, though the latter is questionable as regards orthodoxy, and the first cannot be depended on. The best *popular comment* will be found in the "CRITICAL AND EXPLANATORY POCKET BIBLE," published by Mr Collins, Glasgow, which may be obtained at a very reasonable price. The Rev. Dr Jamieson, known by his illustrations of Biblical Customs, the Rev. Mr Fausset, of St Cuthbert's, York, and the Rev. B. M. Smith, are annotators.

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THE DUTY OF FAMILY PRAYER.

“ Then David returned to bless his household.”

—2 *Samuel*, vi. 20.

WE have here recorded the example of one, whose fidelity to God was unimpaired by the high position he had been called to occupy, and the adverse influences with which he had to contend. From a public act of devotion David returned to entreat the blessing of God on the members of his own household. Laying aside the insignia of royalty, we see him before God acting as a priest in his own house ; affording an example well worthy of the imitation of all.

From the patriarchal period till now no devout head of a family has neglected to observe the worship of God. He who is in earnest about religion will press its claims on others. His consciousness of sin, and of exposure to the wrath of God, ere he was renewed, must have impressed on him a sense of the perilous con-