

**DAILY MORNING AND EVENING  
PRAYERS: SELECTED AND ARRANGED  
FROM THE BIBLE, THE BOOK  
OF COMMON PRAYER, AND VARIOUS  
BOOKS OF DEVOTION, FOR FAMILY  
AND PRIVATE WORSHIP**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649332632

Daily Morning and Evening Prayers: Selected and Arranged from the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and Various Books of Devotion, for Family and Private Worship by William Henry Lewis

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**WILLIAM HENRY LEWIS**

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DAILY

Morning and Evening Prayers,

SELECTED AND ARRANGED FROM

THE BIBLE, THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER,  
AND VARIOUS BOOKS OF DEVOTION,

FOR

FAMILY AND PRIVATE WORSHIP.

BY A LAYMAN

OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, BROOKLYN, L.I.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE RECTOR.

*The Rev. Mr. [unclear]*

NEW-YORK:

JOHN F. TROW, PRINTER, 49 ANN STREET.

1854.

42-112

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I WANT a heart to pray,  
To pray and never cease,  
Never to murmur at thy stay,  
Or wish my sufferings less;  
This blessing, above all,  
Always to pray I want,—  
Out of the deep on thee to call,  
And never, never faint.

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## INTRODUCTION.

IN presenting this manual for the domestic altar, a few remarks on the motives to the observance of family prayer, and upon the best mode of conducting it, will be offered.

The duty of maintaining the worship of God in the household, though not enjoined in express words, may be clearly inferred from Scripture. Job offered sacrifices continually for his children, lest they should have sinned against God. The patriarchs raised an altar wherever they had a tent. David returned from God's public worship to bless his household. Cornelius was a devout man, fearing God, with all his house, and praying always. And our Lord ministered habitually in the devotions of his family of disciples. And in the book of Jeremiah God threatens to pour out his fury upon the heathen, and upon the families which call not upon his name, thus ranking prayerless families with the heathen, and threatening both with his vengeance. From these, and other intimations of God's will, good men, in all ages, have gathered, that family worship was a duty, and have maintained it.

And there is great comfort to be found in the observance. When death enters a family, or either of its members is languishing on the bed of sickness, or is absent, how consoling it is to have one of our own number, who can best enter into our griefs or fears, spread our common wants before a throne of grace! So true is

this, that let a minister or Christian come into a prayerless family, at such seasons, and offer to pray, all will eagerly catch at the proposal, and feel it to be just the relief they needed. Yet if prayer be not habitually maintained, it will not be likely to be offered in the family on these special occasions. One of their number may be sick unto death, and may ask another to pray with him, and yet though yearning so to do, the request will be refused, because he to whom it is addressed is not accustomed to pray before others, and cannot summon courage to begin, even when a dying wife or child entreats. True, all can pray in secret, in such a case, but that does not meet the want. No prayers are more fervent or comforting than those which parents, brothers, and sisters put up for each other, for the present or the absent, for the sick or the suffering, while kneeling side by side at the family altar. Scarcely a day or week passes in which something does not occur of great importance to the inmates of every house, which is little or nothing to all the world besides, and allusion to these things gives an interest to domestic devotions which can be found in none other.

As a help in family government, this means of grace is most valuable. If those who are troubled with rude, headstrong children, whose waywardness gives them much sorrow now, and much anxiety for the future, did but know what a subduing, softening influence the daily worship of God has upon all the stronger and rougher passions of the soul, to say nothing of the grace it draws down to overcome them, they would gladly avail themselves of it as an instrument of domestic polity. What father or child can kneel down and pray against sin, and then rise and immediately indulge in anger, harshness, or severity towards other members of the household? The inconsistency would be so glaring that the sin or the prayer would have to be given up. It is scarcely possi-

ble to join in family worship with angry feelings, and whatever disputes may have arisen, twice in each day, in praying families, will the hand of peace be laid upon them, so that their day must begin and end in harmony. And where this domestic worship is devoutly maintained it increases the affection of the members of the family for each other. A child will remember longer than any thing else, and with more tenderness, a father kneeling down and commending him to God; and brothers and sisters, when separated, will recall with softened emotion, those hallowed seasons when a parent read to them the Word of God, and then all united in a song of praise, or bowed in supplication. In families where God's worship is observed in a proper spirit, there is ever the greatest peace, unity, and kindred love.

To give consistency and power to their own religious example and teaching, parents should sustain family worship. Children may be told of their dependence on God, and of their obligation to love him, to pray to him, and to praise him; but how little will all this avail when the lesson is not impressed by a consistent example, and when there is no visible recognition of God. But indeed those who do not pray with their families, will not be apt to give much religious counsel, for the consciousness of their own neglect of duty will keep them silent, lest they provoke from a child the mental retort, Physician heal thyself.

The great value of family worship, however, is in the help it gives in securing the everlasting salvation of the members of the family. Parents, what do you most desire for your children? Your answer is, My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is, that they may be saved. Then set up God's worship in your house, as one of the best means of realizing that desire. Let the little child as soon as he becomes old enough to notice any thing, see the elder members of the family daily assembling for this duty