**“Praying for the Salvation of Your Children”**

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Paraphrased by Dr. Jerry Nelson

**Indictment of those who care more about their children’s happiness than their children’s holiness:**

**“Now, have you ever thought, my dear Christian brothers and sisters, about blessing your household?**

I might hear someone object by saying, "I keep my religion to myself?" If you say that don’t be very anxious about its ever being stolen; you need not put it under lock and key; there is not enough to tempt the devil himself to come and take it from you. I am afraid that a man who can keep his godliness to himself has so little of it, it will neither help him nor be a blessing to other people.

Strange as it may be, have you ever met fathers who do not seem any more concerned about the salvation of their own children than the salvation of children half way around the world? They would like to see their sons prosper and they would like to see their daughters comfortably and happily married; but as to their being converted, it does not seem to trouble their head. It may be true that the father takes his children to church and even fellowships with other Christians; and he *hopes* his children may turn out well. They may well have the benefit of his hope but he never seems to have made it a matter of the anxiety of his soul, as to whether they shall be saved or not. Be done with such religion! Cast it on the dunghill; hurl it to the dogs; cast it out, like an unclean thing. It is not the religion of God. **He that does not care for his own household, is worse than a heathen.**

**Praying the Promise of God Regarding Your Children:**

Never be content, brothers in Christ, until all your children are saved. Lay the promise before your God. The promise is unto you and unto your children. The Greek word does not refer to infants, but to children, grand-children, and any descendants you may have, whether grown up or not. Do not cease to plead, till not only your children but your great-grandchildren, if you have such, are saved. I stand here today a proof that God is not untrue to his promise. I can cast my eye back through four or five generations, and see that God has been pleased to hear the prayers of my grandfather's grandfather, who used to supplicate with God that his children might live before him to the last generation, and God has never deserted our house, but has been pleased to bring first one and then another to fear and love his name. So be it with you: and in asking this you are not asking more than God is bound to give you. He cannot refuse unless he go back on his promise. He cannot refuse to give you both your own and your children's souls as an answer to the prayer of your faith.

"Ah," says one, "but you do not know what children mine are." No, my dear friend, but I know that if you are a Christian, they are children that God has promised to bless.

"O but they are so unruly, they break **my** heart." Then pray God to break **their** hearts, and they will not break your hearts any more.

"But they will bring my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave." Pray God then that he may bring their eyes with sorrow to prayer, and to supplication, and to the cross, and then they will not bring you to the grave.

"But," you say, "my children have such hard hearts." Look at your own. You think they cannot be saved: look at yourselves, he that saved you can save them.

**Go to him in prayer, and say, "Lord, I will not let you go until you bless me;"** and if your child is at the point of death, and, as you think, at the point of damnation on account of sin, still plead like the nobleman: "Lord, come down before my child dies. And God, you who dwells in the highest heavens will never refuse your people. Be it far from us to dream that you would forget your promise. In the name of all your people we put our hand upon your Word most solemnly, and pledge You to Your covenant. You said your mercy is unto the children's children of them that fear you and that keep your commandments. You said the promise is unto us and unto our children; Lord, you will not go back from your own covenant; we challenge your word by holy faith this morning—"Do as you have said."