

Hudson Taylor's Praying Family

Hudson Taylor, one of the pioneers of the pioneer missionary movement was from a praying family. He tells this story from his youth, and his coming to Christ.

Hudson Taylor came from a strong, believing family. And he was one of them. Yet, at a teen in secondary school he began to accept the scientism viewpoint. He began to think Christianity was foolishness, and beneath him. His parents sensed this and were very distraught. Then Taylor's mother had to travel out of town for work. His father was working long hours away from home too. Hudson became very bored. He went to his father's office and looked for something interesting to read. He picked up a tract about the finished work of Christ.

Across the county his mother prayed every waking hour for Hudson. That night she prayed and toiled with her heart with the Lord. At last the great sense of assurance came over her. She knew this was the Holy Spirit acknowledging the request was answered. That very evening Hudson finally understood the true gospel and gave his heart to Jesus, for "whatever you ask of me". A week later when his mother returned, and excited Hudson met her at the door. He joyously declared, "mother, you will be glad to hear I have given my heart to Christ." "I know dear," was her quick response, as she kissed him on the cheek and hurried to unpack her bags.

Notes: the praying home that prepared one of God's choice instruments for unimaginable service. Theirs was a praying home. Hudson always said it was natural for him to have a powerful prayer life with his background. Second, note the familiarity with the Holy Spirit to know the "witness of the Spirit". And, note the faith that clung to the witness.