

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 96 Needful Prayers

Reading: Psalm 87

1 His foundation is in the holy mountains.
2 The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
3 Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.
4 I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there.

5 And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.
6 The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.
7 As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee.

Address

These Monday evening prayer meetings we hold once a month – I feel, beloved friends, they are times for praying, not for talking. So just a few things that came in the beautiful little Psalm we read, things we need to pray about, thinking especially of our congregation at Bethel, and also thinking of our congregations throughout the land.

The first is this: *the necessity for the new birth*, the importance of the new birth. We read, “This man was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her.” Now we have our congregation. They come regularly. We have our young people. We have our children. We have the preaching. We sing the hymns. The *vital* point is this blessing of the new birth, regeneration – no hope, no salvation, no heaven without it. That is why our Lord Jesus insisted on it: “Ye must be born again.” And that is why at the time of the glorious Evangelical Revival in our country under the preaching of Whitefield, that was the great theme: “Ye must be born again” – the Holy Spirit’s work – and how many thousands in that day were born again to eternal life.

Now this is God's work. We can preach and our congregation can hear, but this is what we long for, and what we pray for: that it might be said, "This and that man was born in her." You know why it says, "This and that man." Well, it is one here, one there. It is individual; it is personal. This is what we pray for – to see sinners born again. And then of course, we shall see the effect of it. "They shall come," says the Word of God. Under the influence of the Spirit, feeling their need, they shall come to the Saviour as their only hope. That is the first thing in this Psalm.

Now the second thing is what follows: *divine establishment*. "The Highest Himself shall establish her." Sinners are born again, brought to a belief in the truth in our Lord Jesus, but not all seem to be established. It is these established Christians who are such a blessing to the church of God. The Word of God tells us, "It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace," which means two things. It is only the grace of God that can establish a sinner, and those who are established, this is the foundation: the grace of God in Christ. So when we pray for this, it is not just for our congregation, and the congregations in our country – we need it ourselves. And it is like the new birth: it is the Lord's work.

Of course, the comparison in the Word of God is a tree planted, taking good root. So this is a secret work. We do not know who is being established. It is like that tree. There is the tree, but you would not know anything is happening. It is secret; it is silent; it is out of sight – those roots going down deep into the ground. O these established Christians, established in the truth!

And of course there is the opposite: "Tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine." That is the opposite of being established. Now may we as a church, may we as a congregation, be delivered from that – going here and there, being taken up with anything, wanting new things which are not commanded in the Word of God. Now may the Lord establish us.

And then the third thing comes at the end: "All my springs are in Thee." Well, we have not got them in our own hearts. We have springs of unbelief and sin. But these springs are all in *Thee*; they are all in the Lord Jesus. What are these springs, these ever-flowing springs? Well, springs of love, springs of mercy, springs of forgiveness, springs of divine help, springs supplying our needs, springs refreshing us, springs bringing deliverance to us. Really, in a word it is that wonderful fulness which dwells in Christ, and so suitable to us in our emptiness and in our need.

“All my springs are in Thee.” So may the brethren be helped to pray, as led by the Spirit, but perhaps thinking of some of these things.

This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom, on Monday, 2nd October, 2017

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Now, dearest Lord, to praise Thy name,
Let all our powers agree;
Worthy art Thou of endless fame;
Our springs are all in Thee.

Here in Thy love will we rejoice,
All sovereign, rich, and free;
Singing, we hope with heart and voice,
Our springs are all in Thee.

To whom, dear Jesus, O to whom
Shall needy sinners flee
But to Thyself, who bidst us come?
Our springs are all in Thee.

Some tempted, weak, and trembling saint
Before Thee now may be;
Let not his hopes or wishes faint;
His springs are all in Thee.

The poor supply, the wounded heal,
Let sinners such as we,
Salvation's blessings taste and feel;
Our springs are all in Thee.

When we arrive at Zion's hill,
And all Thy glory see,
Our joyful songs shall echo still,
Our springs are all in Thee.

S. Medley

