

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Sunday, October 2

[1] Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

[2] Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

[3] Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Robert Robinson was born into a Christian home in England on September 27, 1735. Sadly his father died when he was only 8 years old and by age 14 he had to take a job as apprentice to a barber to support himself and his mother. He soon fell in with a gang of hoodlums that caused trouble throughout the city. Robert's life was going downhill fast until one night when his gang attended a revival service led by the great evangelist George Whitefield. They had gone there to heckle the Christians but instead, Robert Robinson was convicted by the message. A few weeks later he gave his life to the Lord. He was 20 years old.

He began listening to gospel preachers all over England and learning more about his faith. He would go on to pastor several churches and inspire many. He wrote the hymn 'Come Thou Fount' when he was 23 years old. It expressed his desire to sing and praise God for his grace and mercy. It acknowledges that God is the Source of our help. The Hebrew word 'Ebenezer' means stone of help (1 Samuel 7:12).¹ It also contains a plea for God's grace to keep him from wandering for he was "prone to leave the God I love."

Unfortunately the words in verse 3 came true in Robert Robinson's life. He had periods when he wandered away from God and lived in a backslidden sinful condition. A story is told about him later in his life during one of these 'wandering' periods. While he was riding in a stagecoach with a young woman who was reading a book of hymns, she began to hum and sing the words to 'Come Thou Fount of Many Blessings.' She then asked Mr. Robinson what he thought about the hymn. His response was, "Madam, I am the poor, unhappy man who composed that hymn many years ago. I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings that I had then."² God used his own words to convict the heart of this wandering man and bring him back to Himself.

Listen to 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing' on YouTube

@ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKOoeTbjSeI>

¹ Many modern hymnbooks change the first lines of verse 2 to read, "Hitherto Thy love has blest me / Thou hast brought me to this place / And I know Thy hand will bring me / Safely home by Thy good grace." The lines printed above are the original wording by Robinson.

² <https://truthandtidings.com/2016/03/our-heritage-come-thou-fount/>
<https://www.staugustine.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2015/09/17/story-behind-song-come-thou-fount/16263811007/>
<https://enjoyingthejourney.org/hymn-history-come-thou-fount/>