

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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Many of the world's most famous historic fountains rely on aqueducts rather than natural streams. Rome's legendary Trevi Fountain and Fountain of the Four Rivers are among the fountains supplied by the ancient Aqua Virgo aqueduct, which carries water from springs about 10 kilometers outside the city. During periods of drought or extreme heat, water supplies can become strained, reminding us that even the most magnificent earthly fountains depend on a limited source. How grateful we can be that God offers His children an endless supply of living water!

The Bible describes God as a fountain, a spring, and a river of living water that never runs dry. In Jeremiah 2:13, God calls Himself "the fountain of living waters." In John 4:13–14, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst. He promises that this water will become "a well of water springing up to eternal life." Unlike earthly water sources, Christ satisfies our deepest spiritual thirst and gives us eternal life.

The hymn, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, was written in 1758 by Robert Robinson, a young English pastor and hymn writer. The word fount means fountain or spring and represents God as the source of every blessing, mercy, and spiritual life. The opening line expresses the desire for God to fill our hearts with gratitude and praise:

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Robinson's own life reflected the transforming power of God's grace. As a teenager, he lived a reckless life and associated with unruly companions. At seventeen, he attended a meeting where evangelist George Whitefield was preaching, initially intending to mock the Methodists. Instead, the message led him toward faith in Christ. Robinson eventually became a Baptist pastor and a respected theologian and hymn writer.

One of the hymn's most memorable lines says, "Here I raise mine Ebenezer." This refers to 1 Samuel 7:12, where the prophet Samuel set up a stone to commemorate God's help and faithfulness in delivering Israel. The Hebrew name *Ebenezer* means "stone of help." Like Samuel, we can look back on our lives and remember the many ways God has guided, protected, and provided for us.

The hymn also acknowledges our tendency to wander from God and our need for His sustaining grace: "Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love." These honest words remind us to depend daily on the Lord to keep our hearts faithful to Him.

In John 7:37–39, Jesus invites everyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink, promising rivers of living water to those who believe. As you pray and listen to this beautiful hymn, remember that God's grace never runs dry. He is our unfailing source of life, hope, and blessing. May we continually come to Him, drink deeply of His living water, and remember His faithfulness every day.