

Prayer - O God of Bethel, God of Our Fathers

by J.R. Miller

The sermon emphasizes the importance of trusting God's presence and guidance in our lives, and seeking His shelter and refuge in times of trouble.

Scripture: Psalm 121:1

Topics: "God's Presence", "Surrender and Trust"

Description

J.R. Miller emphasizes the importance of God's presence in our lives, expressing a deep reliance on Him as we face the challenges of the world. He acknowledges our struggles to fully surrender to God, recognizing our need for His grace and guidance in overcoming temptation and sin. Miller prays for a holy day filled with patience, kindness, and love, while also seeking refuge in God during times of trouble and darkness. He encourages believers to trust in God's plan, even when life seems complicated, and to have faith in His goodness and love. Ultimately, the sermon is a heartfelt plea for God's protection, healing, and strength as we navigate our daily lives.

Transcript

O God of Bethel, God of our fathers, be our God. Bless us, make Your face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, and give us Your peace. We would not dare go out into the great world this morning, if we did not have You to go with us. But You are everywhere. Where can we go from Your presence? Into whatever corner of the earth we might be cast -- we will see You bending over us. Nothing can separate us from Your love! No power can snatch us out of Your hand! We will go out from the shelter of our happy home, into a world filled with dangers -- but we do not fear, for we shall be with You wherever we may go.

We consecrate ourselves now to You. You have redeemed us, and we are Yours. We recognize Your claim, Your rightful ownership in us -- and present ourselves to You as freewill offerings. Yet we know how hard it is to give ourselves to You, for our evil hearts keep drawing us away continually. Take us then, O God -- for we cannot give ourselves to You. In temptation, may You shelter us, and let us not sink away into destruction. If we come under the power of evil -- may You lead us safely through it. Save us from all that would dishonor You or hurt our own lives.

We ask for grace to make this a holy day. Help us to do our common tasks, in a way that will please You. Save us . . .

from indolence,
from covetousness,
from all neglect of duty,
from all evil tempers or feelings,
and from all resentments.

Help us to be patient toward all men, to be forbearing, kind, thoughtful, courteous, loving, and prayerful. Guard us, and bring us home at nightfall in peace. We ask all in the name of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

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THURSDAY EVENING

Night has drawn its veil over the world again, and we come to take refuge in You. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. We fear not the darkness, for You are in it. It is but Your garment enfolding You. You are as truly in the darkness, as in the light. May the wings of night be to us as Your wings -- under whose shadow we shall find refuge, warmth, and blessing.

Some things have not gone well today. We have had our troubles. Our hearts have been hurt. You are the healer -- will You heal us? Take the tangled threads out of our clumsy hands, disentangle them and weave them into a web of beauty! Take the dark things of the day's providences, the things that seem wrong, and by the power of Your grace, transmute them into blessing. Help us indeed to keep our hands off the strange, complex affairs of our lives -- for we would only spoil the pattern which You are fashioning in us, if we attempted to adjust these complicated affairs. May You take entire charge of the myriad things of our lives that are beyond our managing, and bring good and only good out of them.

We ask for a more perfect faith, that we may never doubt Your love or Your goodness for a moment. Save us from all fear and from all unbelief. Help our half-beliefs, our little faiths. Help us to see the invisible things, and to rest upon them as upon an eternal rock!

Forgive the sins of this day. Accept our thanks for all Your goodness. Shelter us tonight, and bless us in our sleep, giving us renewal of strength. May we rise in the morning, if we are still in this world, ready for a new day of service. We ask all for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/jr-miller/prayer-o-god-of-bethel-god-of-our-fathers/>

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