

Phineas F. Bresee Sermon Notes - Isaiah 64:7

Every attempt has been made to transcribe these notes accurately. Indecipherable text appears in brackets [-]. Abbreviations transcribed as they appear in the notes.

Isa LXIV.7 – And there is none that calleth upon thy name

More things are accomplished by prayer than this we dream of but that much more might be, there can be no doubt. We offer so little real prayer. There may not appear to be a great [defy] of words in our more formal service. But how often are our words nothing more. Who dares to think that if there went up real prayer such as God has taught us to pray from 200 hearts in this Ch. there would not be a vastly different condition of things in our services. In our homes. In our towns. It has been intimated to me that there is an utter carelessness in many of our prof – Ch. homes about even the forces of prayer. And that in the sanctuary scarce bow their heads &c. That there are those who make no habit of coming to places that are set apart for prayer. That they have no secret altar. With this condition of things if it be can we hope to measure up to God's work or for the manifestations of the D.S. & the Holy unction that we might feel & enjoy. Who has not noticed that there is a lack among some of [an] earnest form of Ch. The attendance upon the means of grace is made a subject of convenience or physical comfort. Some who feel that when they have attained the means of grace once. They have paid what penance they need to to the sanctuary that day & they can stay [to] home & read or sleep &c. Of course without the Spt of those who say "I was glad" &c. If there was nothing but to hear my words &c. But have you no work to do there &c. No inf to exert, no songs, no prayers, no [fingers] to stretch out &c. But after all the forms of religion are of little avail. It might still be said this people draw near unto me with their lips while their hearts &c. The great need of this Ch. of all our hearts is a deeper Spirituality. A baptism of the H.G. A deeper sanction from the Holy One. Nothing else will take the place of this. No intellectual strength, no [-] of ritual. No service of song. No beauty of architecture nor adornments of art. You have doubtless all felt its comparative absence. Especially those of you who are spiritual minded. None have felt it more than I or more grieved over its absence. For Jesus said without me ye can do nothing. And only as the D.P. is & [E] among us will we grow up unto God or have power with men.

End of notes