

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 180

**SUBJECT: Life —**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

## **God's Gift of Eternal Life**

"...the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Gift – The act of giving or conferring; the right or power of giving or bestowing. Power; faculty; some quality or endowment conferred by the author of our nature. (Webster's 1828)

Eternal – Without beginning or ending. Perpetual; ceaseless; continued without intermission, unchangeable. (Webster's 1828)

Unlike giving a gift that one person gives to another and receives a thank you, God's gift of eternal life, without beginning or ending, is a perpetual, ceaseless, changeless gift, just as Life itself. So, as one gives gratitude for a gift given, we must be as grateful, — perpetually, ceaselessly. Our gratitude is best shown by honoring the Giver, the one God, by obedience and knowing that God is the only Life. Also, by obeying the example of the way-shower, Christ Jesus, and acknowledging his example as the Way to eternal life.

Thank you, Lesson writer, for this inspiring lesson on Life.

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## **Demonstration and "Added Things"**

"Truth demonstrated is eternal life." (*Science and Health* 289:1)

I love re-reading Dorothy Rieke's article entitled "Immortality Brought to Light" with the Lesson on "Life." Recalling recent comments made regarding demonstration during the most recent Bible Study and Roundtable discussions, and noticing the repetition of the word "demonstration" found in this week's Lesson, when I read the Rieke article this time, not only did the word "demonstration"

jump out at me more than before, but also the words "added things."

In referencing an article on our website entitled "[Accepting Demonstration](#)" (by Margaret Morrison – *Christian Science Journal*, Feb. 1947), Dorothy Rieke makes such statements as these: "Any manifestation that might take place in our human experience as a result of this demonstration of Truth is but an added thing.... The right job coming our way, the physical problem healed, the finding of a home, the manifestation of supply, are but the added things...if we testify consistently as regards what is actually true, we leave the door wide open for the added things. However, if we attach to our demonstration of Truth the word 'but' and add a negative thought, we close the door on the added things.... Why not leave the door wide open, so that these added things can flow into our everyday living in abundance...without any compromising 'if's' or 'but's' or 'maybe so's'?" Turning directly to the article "Accepting Demonstration," we find these clear statements about what demonstration is: "To be wholly satisfied with and to rejoice fearlessly in divine Love, knowing that ideas alone are substance, and that as the reflection of Love [we express] the ideas of Love and [are] fully supplied — this is the ultimate demonstration.... Never shut the door with a 'but' on the things that are added.... Dwelling in this knowledge of the truth, rejoicing in it, being satisfied with it, reflecting it in daily thought and deed, is...demonstration. The things that are added will be forthcoming, but they are not themselves demonstration."

"...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

"Your ability to demonstrate is 'Immanuel' — God with you.... In the Carpenter Books...he talks about it over and over, how to demonstrate, how Mrs. Eddy demonstrated, how she insisted on

demonstration in her home — this is what it's all about..." (Roundtable 1/10/21)

THANK YOU to this week's Lesson writer, and to ALL the Lesson writers each week, as we are prompted to explore the ideas brought out in the Lessons more fully, to expand our understanding of the truths we learn, and to thereby bring more healing into our lives, and into the lives of others, as well!

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### **"And Let Us Not Be Weary in Well Doing:"**

"And let us not be weary in well doing:"  
(Galatians 6:9)

"While at lunch, I said, 'Mrs. Eddy, you are fortunate in having such a good cook,' for the cooking and preparation of the food was very excellent. Mrs. Eddy answered that it was so indeed, adding, 'It is through Christian Science that this excellence has appeared, for before she applied the Principle of Christian Science to her work, she was a poor cook,' a statement Mrs. Sargent corroborated. Pretty soon, Martha, the cook came in and Mrs. Eddy said to her: 'Mr. Gilman was commending your cooking and I told him that you were a Christian Scientist in your cooking.' 'Yes,' she cordially replied, 'it is only by carrying Christian Science practice into my work that I have been able to do it well.'" (*Recollections of Mary Baker Eddy*, Diary Records of James F. Gilman)

I am grateful to be here where carrying Christian Science practice into our daily lives is the standard and taught practically so that we may continue and not be "weary in well doing." We learn as we go along that it is a joy-giving work, and how to draw strength from God with each step, as we build a connection to Him.

["Facing the Wind"](#) from Charles Spurgeon:

"Instead of bringing a railing accusation against churches as they are, the best thing is for every one of us to do his best in the sight of God to make them what they should be, by seeking our own personal sanctification and endeavoring that the influence of a holy life shall, in our case, help to leaven the rest of the mass.

"Paul turns from the consideration of those who had grieved him in the church to speak to the rest of the brethren, and he says to them, 'But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.' In expounding these words we shall, first, notice that our text contains a summary of Christian life; it is called 'well doing.' Secondly, we shall see it gives out a very distinct warning against weariness; and it hints at some of the causes of weariness in the Christian life. In the third place, I shall close the discourse by giving some arguments to meet the reasoning of our soul when, at times, it seems to plead its own weariness as an excuse.

"Well doing is attending to the duties that arise out of our relationships in life — attending carefully to them, and seeing that in nothing we are eye-servers and men-pleasers, but in everything are seeking to serve God. I know it is difficult to make people feel that such simple and ordinary things as these are well doing.

"Away with superstition! Kill it, by counting every place to be holy, and every day to be holy, and every action that you perform to be a part of the high priesthood to which the Lord Jesus Christ has called every soul that he has washed in his precious blood.... Everything is well doing that is done in obedience to the divine command. Again, everything that is done out of love to God is well doing...well doing includes that which we do in divine strength.

"Some of you could take a high degree in criticizing admirably everybody else that does anything, and putting your own hands into your pockets and keeping them there. Well-talking also is a great deal more common than well doing."

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### **God is Not Mocked**

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7)

In I Samuel chapter 17, it tells of Goliath taunting the army of Israel with threats about how all of Israel will be brought under the control of the Philistines and become their servants. This is David's reply when he faced Goliath: "I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of

the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand.... And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands." And David prevailed.

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## **SUBJECT: Truth — January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### **"Praise the Lord"**

"O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people." (Ps.117:1)

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "praise" as "to value; to extol, or lift up; to express gratitude for; to honor, magnify, glorify."

The word "praise" is repeated five times in this Lesson, and involves not just a verbal activity of "lip-service," but requires demonstration. Therefore, it is significant that the Lesson ends with the best way to "praise the Lord" — "Truth is revealed. It needs only to be practised." (*Science and Health* 174:20-21)

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### **Living Water – Water of Life – God's Good Thoughts**

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." (John 4:10)

"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." (Revelation 21:6)

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." (Revelation 22:1)

Living water/River of water of life:

- The unfoldment of Truth
- The divine revelation of God as the ever-

present and inexhaustible source of all that is good

- Right, pure thought; God's good thoughts
- The Christ, the divine idea
- The activity of Truth and Love
- Inspiration; spiritual understanding
- Christian Science

"...our thoughts form a never ending stream. We think, think, think day and night.... The supply of thought is endless...the 'river of water of life' is a stream of right and pure thought...the river of thought is constantly flowing. We must think something every instant. It is inevitable. It is the nature of Mind, man's source and support, to be omni-active. Every instant, therefore, we should think a good thought, a God thought, for it is ours to choose what we shall think. God's thoughts, and thoughts of God, are life-giving.... They are precious beyond all else." (*Christian Science Sentinel*, "Living Water," by Martha R. White, 7/22/1911)

The author points out further that, even though the Samaritan woman forgot to give Jesus the drink of water that he initially requested, "When his disciples presently brought him food, he declined to receive it. He was already refreshed! The living water, his spiritual understanding, had restored him, even while he was awakening the woman to a new and purified sense of life."

"...drink with me the living waters of the spirit of my life-purpose, — to impress humanity with the genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science." (*Miscellaneous Writings* 207:3-6)

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Charles Spurgeon's sermon, which Susan posted for us to read in preparation for this Saturday's Bible Study, is a beautiful exposition of this story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. <https://www.spurgeongems.org/sermon/chs2570.pdf>

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### **"Debris of Error"**

"Mortal man can never rise from the temporal *débris* of error, belief in sin, sickness, and death, until he learns that God is the only Life." (*Science and Health* 289:2-4)

I love the fact that Mrs. Eddy was inspired to call all belief in sin, sickness, and death “debris” — that is, *garbage*. It puts it in its proper perspective.

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines “debris” as rubbish; ruins, particularly fragments of rocks. And “rocks” made me think of “the adamant [impenetrable stone] of error, — self-will, self-justification, and self-love,” (*Science and Health* 242:17-18) So, any time a piece, or fragment, of these “rocks” tries to enter my consciousness, I can know that it is garbage, the “debris of error,” and not God’s Truth and cannot mesmerize me.

“Truth is not fragmentary....” (*Retrospection and Introspection* 93:11) “Christ’s teachings...are not theoretical and fragmentary, but practical and complete....” (*Science and Health* 98:27-28)

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## The Basis of Thought

“In divine Science, man is the true image of God. The divine nature was best expressed in Christ Jesus, who threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow, — thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying. The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, — perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration.” (*Science and Health* 259:6-14)

“To a Christian Scientist, the Millennium will be the state of his own consciousness. It will be his freedom to think without constraint from so-called mortal mind, for as our thought is constrained, just that long is divine power lacking. When we are free to think divinely, without the constraint of mortal mind, then we are free to act divinely; without constraint; then we can walk over the waves, calm the storm, and feed the multitude if need be.” (From “[The Millennium](#),” *Addresses* by Martha Wilcox)

Later in the article, she also writes: “Anything that threatens free thought is dangerous and we should demonstrate its nothingness.”

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There is so much pressure to give up this Science of the Christ and concede to prevailing thought. Mrs. Eddy instructs us, “Christian Scientists must live under the constant pressure of the apostolic command to come out from the material world and be separate. They must renounce aggression, oppression and the pride of power. Christianity, with the crown of Love upon her brow, must be their queen of life.” (*Science and Health* 451:2-7)

I took some time to make a list of things that challenge my thought to give up and not stand for “perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration.” Having suffered greatly for allowing my thought to be managed by others in order to keep the peace, I am grateful for the lessons I have learned at Plainfield church on “how to maintain independent thought.” This has been slowly allowing me to also stand up to other thought impositions. This is a tremendous gift.

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## Ten Degrees (Steps) — Shadow of Death — Death Swallowed Up in Victory!

“...shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And...the LORD...brought the shadow ten degrees backward...” (II Kings 20:9-11)

“The word ‘degrees’ is more literally translated as ‘steps’ in these verses. If the royal palace was placed southeast of the Temple, it’s possible that it was some part of the Temple buildings that had cast its shadow down the stairway in full view of the dying king as he lay in his chamber. In asking for a sign, Hezekiah was showing his faith in God. And, his choice of the seemingly impossible sign of the ‘shadow returning backward ten degrees [steps],’ was most fitting, as he lay dying and was already entering into the shadow of death. ‘Dial’ (ma’aloth) is usually translated as ‘degrees,’ ‘steps,’ or ‘stairs.’

“The retrogression of the sun’s shadow on the dial was miraculously accomplished by the omnipotent power of God; but the phenomenon was temporary, local, confined to the notice, and



intended for the satisfaction, only of Hezekiah and his court.

“In the restoration of the second temple by Herod, fifteen steps led from the Court of the Women to the Court of Israel, and on these steps the Levites, during the Feast of Tabernacles, were accustomed to stand in order to sing the fifteen ‘Songs of Degrees’ (Psalms 120 through 134), also known as the ‘Psalms of Ascent’ — reminders of faith, forgiveness, family, children, peace, hope, brotherhood, sacrifice, and right attitudes toward God and people. Some think that Hezekiah himself was the compiler of these fifteen ‘Songs of the Steps,’ in thankfulness for his fifteen years of added life.” (Jamieson-Faucet-Brown)

“The number of these Psalms (fifteen)... corresponds with the number of the years (fifteen), which were added to Hezekiah’s life: while the number written by himself (ten) corresponds with the number of ‘the degrees’ by which the ‘shadow of the sun went backward.’” (Dr. John Lightfoot)

“The Lord *was ready* to save me [Hezekiah]: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.” (Isaiah 38:20)

“This work of wonder shows the power of God in heaven as well as on earth, the great notice he takes of prayer, and the great favour he bears to his chosen.” (Matthew Henry)

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me...” (Psalm 23:4)

“He will swallow up death in victory...” (Isaiah 25:8)

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### Hymn 293

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 Edition*

Rock of Ages, Truth divine,  
Be Thy strength forever mine;  
Let me rest secure on Thee,  
Safe above life’s raging sea.  
Rock of Ages, Truth divine,  
Be Thy strength forever mine.

Rock of Truth, our fortress strong,  
Thou our refuge from all wrong,  
When from mortal sense I flee,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.  
Rock of Ages, Truth divine,  
Be Thy strength forever mine.

Christ, the Truth, foundation sure,  
On this rock we are secure;  
Peace is there our life to fill,  
Cure is there for every ill.  
Rock of Ages, Truth divine,  
Be Thy strength forever mine.

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### Hymn 343

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 Edition*

Thou art the Way: to thee alone  
From sin and death we flee;  
And he who would the Father seek,  
Must seek Him, Lord, by thee.

Thou art the Truth: thy word alone  
True wisdom doth impart;  
Thou only canst unfold that Truth,  
And purify the heart.

Thou art the Life: the rending tomb  
Proclaims thy conquering arm;  
And those who put their trust in thee  
Nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:  
Grant us that Way to know,  
That Truth to trust, that Life to learn,  
Whose joys eternal flow.

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*Truth is Always the Victor!*

