

2019-09-18 Eternal life



The readings are from our Pastor: The Holy Bible and the Christian Science textbook "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures", by Mary Baker Eddy.



The Holy Bible

1. I John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

2. John 11:1, 5-7, 11-15 Our, 17, 32-34, 38-44 It

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ...

Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judæa again. ...

... Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. ...

Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already. ...

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. ...

... It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha,

the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

3. John 3:1–6, 13

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ...

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

4. John 12:44, 47, 49, 50

¶ Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. ...

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. ...

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

5. John 6:38, 40 (to :), 44–47, 63

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ...

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: ...

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the

Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. ...

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

6. I John 2:24, 25

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.



Science and Health

1. SH 468:25–1; 469:4–5 (to 2nd .)

Question. — What is Life?

Answer. — Life is divine Principle, Mind, Soul, Spirit. Life is without beginning and without end. Eternity, not time, expresses the thought of Life, and time is no part of eternity. One ceases in proportion as the other is recognized. Time is finite; eternity is forever infinite. ... Life is divine Mind. Life is not limited. Death and finiteness are unknown to Life.

Eternity
of Life

2. SH 257:32–1; 258:9–15, 19–21

Finite man cannot be the image and likeness of the infinite God. ...

Man is more than a material form with a mind inside, which must escape from its environments in order to be immortal. Man reflects infinity, and this reflection is the true idea of God.

Infinity's
reflection

God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis. ...

The infinite Principle is reflected by the infinite idea and spiritual individuality, but the material so-called senses have no cognizance of either Principle or its idea.

3. SH 170:28–31; 171:4

The description of man as purely physical, or as both material and spiritual, — but in either case dependent upon his physical organization, — is the Pandora box, from which all ills have gone forth, especially despair. ...

Through discernment of the spiritual opposite of materiality, even the way through Christ, Truth, man will reopen with the key of divine Science the gates of Paradise which human beliefs have closed, and will find himself unfallen, upright, pure, and free, not needing to consult almanacs for the probabilities

Paradise
regained

either of his life or of the weather, not needing to study brainology to learn how much of a man he is.

4. SH 258:25–5

Mortals have a very imperfect sense of the spiritual man and of the infinite range of his thought. To him belongs eternal Life. Never born and never dying, it were impossible for man, under the government of God in eternal Science, to fall from his high estate.

Individual
permanency

Through spiritual sense you can discern the heart of divinity, and thus begin to comprehend in Science the generic term *man*. Man is not absorbed in Deity, and man cannot lose his individuality, for he reflects eternal Life; nor is he an isolated, solitary idea, for he represents infinite Mind, the sum of all substance.

God's man
discerned

5. SH 245:32–1; 246:27 (only)

The infinite never began nor will it ever end. Mind and its formations can never be annihilated. ...

Life is eternal.

6. SH 75:12–24; 76:6–12, 18

Jesus said of Lazarus: “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.” Jesus restored Lazarus by the understanding that Lazarus had never died, not by an admission that his body had died and then lived again. Had Jesus believed that Lazarus had lived or died in his body, the Master would have stood on the same plane of belief as those who buried the body, and he could not have resuscitated it.

Raising
the dead

When you can waken yourself or others out of the belief that all must die, you can then exercise Jesus' spiritual power to reproduce the presence of those who have thought they died, — but not otherwise. ...

When being is understood, Life will be recognized as neither material nor finite, but as infinite, — as God, universal good; and the belief that life, or mind, was ever in a finite form, or good in evil, will be destroyed. Then it will be understood that Spirit never entered matter and was therefore never raised from matter. ...

Real Life
is God

Suffering, sinning, dying beliefs are unreal. When divine Science is universally understood, they will have no power over man, for man is immortal and lives by divine authority.

7. SH 251:8–11

In the illusion of death, mortals wake to the knowledge of two facts: (1) that they are not dead; (2) that they have but passed the portals of a new belief.

Illusion
of death

8. SH 77:5

Existence continues to be a belief of corporeal sense until the Science of being is reached. Error brings its own self-destruction both here and hereafter, for mortal mind creates its own physical conditions. Death will occur on the next plane of existence as on this, until the spiritual understanding of Life is reached. Then, and not until then, will it be demonstrated that “the second death hath no power.”

Second
death

9. SH 288:31

The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man's real existence as a child of God comes to light. Truth demonstrated is eternal life. 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. The belief that life and sensation are in the body should be overcome by the understanding of what constitutes man as the image of God. Then Spirit will have overcome the flesh.

10. SH 410:4

“This is life eternal,” says Jesus, — *is*, not *shall be*; and then he defines everlasting life as a present knowledge of his Father and of himself, — the knowledge of Love, Truth, and Life. “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” The Scriptures say, “Man shall not live by bread *alone*, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,” showing that Truth is the actual life of man; but mankind objects to making this teaching practical.

Life eternal
and present

11. SH 428:30–32

The author has healed hopeless organic disease, and raised the dying to life and health through the understanding of God as the only Life.

12. SH 203:31–32

God, divine good, does not kill a man in order to give him eternal Life, for God alone is man's life.

13. SH 487:3–6

Life is deathless. Life is the origin and ultimate of man, never attainable through death, but gained by walking in the pathway of Truth both before and after that which is called death.

Exercise
of Mind-
faculties

14. SH 557:18

Divine Science rolls back the clouds of error with the light of Truth, and lifts the curtain on man as never born and as never dying, but as coexistent with his creator.

15. SH 361:16

As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light one with the sun, even so God and man, Father and son, are one in being. The Scripture reads: "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being."



Hymns

1. Hymn. 135

I know no life divided, / O Lord of life, from Thee; / In Thee is life provided / For all mankind and me: / I know no death, O Father, / Because I live in Thee; / Thy life it is that frees us / From death eternally. /

I fear no tribulation, / Since, whatsoe'er it be, / It makes no separation / Between my Lord and me: / Since Thou, my God and Father, / Dost claim me as Thine own, / I richly shall inherit / All good, from Thee alone.

2. Hymn. 444

Be still, my heart: you rest in Love divine; / God's gracious touch has silenced grief and pain. / Love's timeless Christ allows for no decline; / In changeless being shall your health remain. / Be still, my heart: your faithful only Friend / Secures your joyful voyage without end. /

Be still, my heart: of present glories sing, / Instead of mourning for a troubled past. / Replace sad tunes with melodies that ring / Of God's rich mercy and of blessings vast. / Be still, my heart: the winds and waves recede / When to God's angel voices you give heed. /

Be still, my heart: our God casts out all fears, / Assuring you that God and man are one; / And in that oneness here and now appears / Love's everlasting life, with death outdone. / Be still, my heart: no lies, no tears, no curse / Can mar the rhythm of God's universe.

3. Hymn. 112

High to heaven let song be soaring, / Borne on faith's triumphant pinion; / Free from sin, our hearts adoring / Yield themselves to Love's dominion. /

Sing, till all the world rejoices, / Sing! for fear no more enslaves us. / From th' accuser's mocking voices / Christ, our mighty Counsel, saves us. /

Sing the Word, whose power supernal / Loveliness and joy unfoldeth; / Man who lives in Life eternal / Evermore the light beholdeth.