

Growing Our Faith

March 18 2026



Hymn. 510

In Love divine all earth-born fear and sorrow
Fade as the dark when dawn pours forth her light;
And understanding prayer is fully answered,
When trustingly we turn to God aright.

And as on wings of faith we soar and worship,
Held by God's love above the shadows dim,
Hushed in the grandeur of a heart's awakening,
Unfolds a joy unknown till found in Him.

Then in this radiant light of adoration,
We know that man beloved is in God's care,
Not wrapped in fear nor bowed with tired labor,
But satisfied, complete, divinely fair.

Words: SUSAN F. CAMPBELL

Music: Benjamin Russell Vaughan

Hymn. 470

Faith grasps the blessing she desires,
Hope points the upward gaze;
And Love, celestial Love, inspires
The eloquence of praise.

But sweeter far the still small voice
Unheard by human ear,
When God has made the heart rejoice,
And dried the bitter tear.

No accents flow, no words ascend;
All language fails us there;
But God does always comprehend
And answer silent prayer.

Words: HARRIET MARTINEAU, ALT.

Music: Peter B. Cornell

Hymn. 253

O'er waiting harpstrings of the mind
There sweeps a strain,
Low, sad, and sweet, whose measures bind
The power of pain,

And wake a white-winged angel throng
Of thoughts, illumed
By faith, and breathed in raptured song,
With love perfumed.

Then His unveiled, sweet mercies show
Life's burdens light.
I kiss the cross, and wake to know
A world more bright.

And o'er earth's troubled, angry sea
I see Christ walk,
And come to me, and tenderly,
Divinely talk.

Thus Truth engrounds me on the rock,
Upon Life's shore,
'Gainst which the winds and waves can shock,
Oh, nevermore!

From tired joy and grief afar,

And nearer Thee,—
Father, where Thine own children are,
I love to be.

My prayer, some daily good to do
To Thine, for Thee;
An offering pure of Love, whereto
God leadeth me.

Words: MARY BAKER EDDY

Music: William Lyman Johnson

From the King James Version of the Bible

Deut. 7:9

- 9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

From the JB Phillips translation of the Bible

Mark 3:7 (to ,); 4:1, 26-32 The

Jesus now retired to the lake-side with his disciples. A huge crowd of people followed him...

Then once again he began to teach them....

...“The kingdom of God is like a man scattering seed on the ground and then going to bed each night and getting up every morning, while the seed sprouts and grows up, though he has no idea how it happens. The earth produces a crop without any help from anyone: first a blade, then the ear of corn, then the full-grown grain in the ear. And as soon as the crop is ready, he sends his reapers in without delay, for the harvest-time has come.”

30 And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard

seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Matthew 17:14-20 a

14-16 When they returned to the crowds again a man came and knelt in front of Jesus. “Lord, do have pity on my son,” he said, “for he is a lunatic and is in a terrible state. He is always falling into the fire or into the water. I did bring him to your disciples but they couldn’t cure him.”

17 “You really are an unbelieving and difficult people,” Jesus returned. “How long must I be with you, and how long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me!”

18 Then Jesus reprimanded the evil spirit and it went out of the boy, who was cured from that moment.

19 Afterwards the disciples approached Jesus privately and asked, “Why weren’t we able to get rid of it?”

20-21 “Because you have so little faith,” replied Jesus. “I assure you that if you have as much faith as a grain of mustard-seed you can say to this hill, ‘Up you get and move over there!’ and it will move—you will find nothing is impossible.”

James 1:2-8

When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men of mature character with the right sort of independence. And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God—who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty—and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him. But he must ask in sincere faith without secret doubts as to whether he

really wants God's help or not. The man who trusts God, but with inward reservations, is like a wave of the sea, carried forward by the wind one moment and driven back the next. That sort of man cannot hope to receive anything from God, and the life of a man of divided loyalty will reveal instability at every turn.

Jame's 2:14

Now what use is it, my brothers, for a man to say he "has faith" if his actions do not correspond with it?

Luke 8:40, 43-48

On Jesus' return, the crowd welcomed him back, for they had all been looking for him.

43-44 ...Among them was a woman, who had a haemorrhage for twelve years and who had derived no benefit from anybody's treatment. She came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his cloak, with the result that her haemorrhage stopped at once.

45 "Who was that who touched me?" said Jesus. And when everybody denied it, Peter remonstrated, "Master, the crowds are all round you and are pressing you on all sides"

46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched me, for I felt the power went out from me."

47 When the woman realised that she had not escaped notice she came forward trembling, and fell at his feet and admitted before everybody why she had to touch him, and how she had been instantaneously cured.

48 "Daughter," said Jesus, "It is your faith that has healed you—go in peace."

Matt. 8:5-10

5-6 Then as he was coming into Capernaum a centurion approached. "Sir," he implored him, "my servant is in bed at home paralysed and in dreadful pain."

7 "I will come and heal him," said Jesus to him.

8-9 “Sir,” replied the centurion, “I’m not important enough for you to come under my roof. Just give the order, please, and my servant will recover. I’m a man under authority myself, and I have soldiers under me. I can say to one man ‘Go’ and I know he’ll go, or I can say ‘Come here’ to another and I know he’ll come—or I can say to my slave ‘Do this’ and he’ll always do it.”

10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished. “Believe me,” he said to those who were following him, “I have never found faith like this, even in Israel!

Heb.11:1,3

11 1,3 Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain of things we cannot see. ...And it is after all only by faith that our minds accept as fact that the whole scheme of time and space was created by God’s command—that the world which we can see has come into being through principles which are invisible.

From Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy

SH 1:1–4

1 **T**HE prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the
sick is an absolute faith that all things are
3 possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him,
an unselfed love.

SH vii:17

Ignorance of God is no longer the stepping-
18 stone to faith. The only guarantee of obedience is a
right apprehension of Him whom to know aright is
Life eternal. Though empires fall, “the Lord shall
21 reign forever.”

SH 145:31–2 (to 1st.); 146:5

The theology of Christian Science includes healing the sick. Our Master’s first article of faith propounded
1 to his students was healing, and he proved his faith by his works.

The first idol-
6 atry was faith in matter. The schools have rendered faith in drugs the fashion, rather than faith in Deity. By trusting matter to destroy its own discord, health and
9 harmony have been sacrificed. Such systems are barren of the vitality of spiritual power, by which material sense is made the servant of Science and religion becomes
12 Christlike.

SH 12:1

1 “The prayer of faith shall save the sick,” says the Scripture. What is this healing prayer? A mere re-
3 quest that God will heal the sick has no power to gain more of the divine presence than is always at hand. The beneficial effect of
6 such prayer for the sick is on the human mind, making it act more powerfully on the body through a blind faith in God. This, however, is one belief casting out
9 another, — a belief in the unknown casting out a belief in sickness. It is neither Science nor Truth which acts through blind belief, nor is it the human under-
12 standing of the divine healing Principle as manifested in Jesus, whose humble prayers were deep and conscientious protests of Truth, — of man’s likeness to
15 God and of man’s unity with Truth and Love.

Prayer for
the sick

SH 323:32–2

Willingness to become as a little child and
1 to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of
the advanced idea.

SH 23:17–2

Faith,
18 advanced to spiritual understanding, is the evidence gained
from Spirit, which rebukes sin of every kind and estab-
lishes the claims of God.

21 In Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English, *faith* and the
words corresponding thereto have these two defini-
tions, *trustfulness* and *trustworthiness*. One
24 kind of faith trusts one’s welfare to others.

Another kind of faith understands divine Love and how
to work out one’s “own salvation, with fear and trem-
27 bling.” “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!”
expresses the helplessness of a blind faith; whereas the
injunction, “Believe . . . and thou shalt be saved!”
30 demands self-reliant trustworthiness, which includes spir-
itual understanding and confides all to God.

The Hebrew verb *to believe* means also *to be firm* or
1 *to be constant*. This certainly applies to Truth and Love
understood and practised.

Self-reliance
and confidence

SH 199:21–22

21 The devotion of thought to an honest achievement makes
the achievement possible.

SH 368:14

When we
15 come to have more faith in the truth of being than we have
in error, more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith
in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man,

18 then no material suppositions can prevent us from healing
the sick and destroying error.

SH 343:4

James said: “Show me thy faith without thy works, and
I will show thee my faith by my works.”

SH 209:31–1

Spiritual sense is a conscious, constant capacity to un-
derstand God. It shows the superiority of faith by works
1 over faith in words.

SH 329:12 We

12 We
must prove our faith by demonstration.

SH 444:10

Step by
step will those who trust Him find that “God is our refuge
12 and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Refuge and
strength

SH 202:6

6 If men would bring to bear upon the study of the
Science of Mind half the faith they bestow upon the so-
called pains and pleasures of material sense,
9 they would not go on from bad to worse,
until disciplined by the prison and the scaffold; but
the whole human family would be redeemed through
12 the merits of Christ, — through the perception and ac-
ceptance of Truth. For this glorious result Christian
Science lights the torch of spiritual understanding.

Divine
study