



Thanksgiving

Golden Text

Revelation 11:17 *We*

... We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 25:1, 4; 26:3; I Chronicles 29:11-13

¹ O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

⁴ **For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.**

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

¹¹ **Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.** ¹² Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. ¹³ **Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.**

SECTION ONE:

We rejoice over one infinitely good God.
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SECTION TWO:

God feeds, clothes, and tenderly cares for us.
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SECTION THREE:

We give thanks that the Science of Christ is here for all.
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SECTION FOUR:

Let's give thanks for the understanding of God.
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1 | Deuteronomy 6:4

1 | 497:5-6

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God.

2 | James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2 | 2:23 (only, to ?), 26-28 Shall

God is Love. Can we ask Him to be more?

3 | Psalms 9:1, 2

1 I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Shall God's standard

27 we plead for more at the open fount, which is pouring forth more than we accept?

3 | 275:12

12 Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, combine as one, — and are the Scriptural names for God. All substance, intelligence, wisdom, being, immortality, cause, and effect belong to God. These are His **attributes**, the eternal manifestations of the infinite divine Principle, Love. No wisdom is wise but His wisdom; no truth is true, no love is lovely, no life is Life but the divine; no good is, but the good God **bestows**.

Divine synonyms

4 | 340:23

24 One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; **constitutes** the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the Scripture, "Love thy neighbor as thyself;" annihilates **pagan** and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious **codes**; equalizes the sexes; **annuls** the curse on man, and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.

5 | 249:8-10

Let us re- Renewed selfhood

9 rejoice that we are subject to the divine "powers that be." Such is the true Science of being.

APPLY IT



4 | Psalms 92:1-4

1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: 2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, 3 Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. 4 For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

5 | Psalms 105:1

1 O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

THE "SOLEMN SOUND"

mentioned here comes from the Hebrew word *higgayown* and relates to the murmuring (low and gentle) sound a harp makes. It describes the sort of music that invites contemplation and thoughtfulness.



It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: . . . For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. —Psalms 92:1, 4

APPLY IT

Hymn 578 of the *Christian Science Hymnal: Hymns 430-603* asks us to "sing a song to God." Even if you don't think of yourself as being musical, how can you be singing praises to God through your actions and thoughts today?



attributes: qualities
bestows: gives; imparts
constitutes: composes; forms; makes up
pagan: that which relates to the worshipping of false gods
codes: sets of laws or regulations
annuls: makes void; nullifies; overturns; eliminates

6 | Psalms 24:1

1 The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

7 | Ezekiel 34:11, 15, 16 (to :)

11 For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God. 16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick:

8 | Matthew 4:23

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

9 | Matthew 5:1, 2, 6

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

10 | Matthew 6:31, 32 for your, 33

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

QUESTION



6 | 530:5

- In divine Science, man is sustained by God, the divine
- 6 Principle of being. The earth, at God's command, brings forth food for man's use. Knowing this, Jesus once said, "Take no thought for your life, ^{Divine providence}
 - 9 what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink," — **presuming** not on the **prerogative** of his creator, but recognizing God, the Father and Mother of all, as able to feed and clothe man as He doth the lilies.

7 | 234:4

- Whatever inspires with wisdom, Truth, or Love — be it song, sermon, or Science — blesses the human family
- 6 with crumbs of comfort from Christ's table, ^{Crumbs of comfort} feeding the hungry and giving living waters to the thirsty.

8 | 3:22–24

- Are we really grateful for the good already received? Then we shall **avail** ourselves of the blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more.
- 24

9 | vii:1–2

- 1 To those leaning on the **sustaining** infinite, to-day is big with blessings.

QUESTION

How does putting God first ensure that you'll have all of your needs taken care of?



Word **highlighted:** happy
presuming: assuming; supposing to be entitled
prerogative: special right or privilege
avail: make use of; benefit
sustaining: upholding; maintaining; supporting



31 Therefore do not worry or be anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted), saying, "What are we going to eat?" or "What are we going to drink?" or "What are we going to wear?"

Matthew 6:31—Amplified Bible

At the start of the season I couldn't afford the new equipment I needed, but then I remembered that God is the "sustaining infinite." Everything I needed was just supplied!



That's wonderful! We're so grateful you were able to stay on the team.

So am I, and it was gratitude for God that made it possible!

11 | Acts 5:12 (to :)

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;

12 | Acts 3:1-9



1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

13 | Psalms 30:12 O Lord

12 O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

14 | Matthew 10:8

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.



AT THIS TIME

in Israel, the Jews had developed a tradition of praying and offering sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem three times a day (morning, noon, and evening). The ninth hour corresponds with the evening prayer time, which usually fell around 3:00 p.m.



Angels spoke these words to the shepherds who were searching to find Jesus following his birth in Bethlehem (Luke 2:14).



immanent: innate; essential; abiding
phenomenal: extraordinary; remarkable; unusual

exhibition: public display; show

estate: state; rank; standing

alterative: something that causes change, leading to health

carious: decayed

standard: banner at the top of a pole (used as a rallying point in battle)

10 | 343:25-28

27 Anciently those apostles who were Jesus' students, as well as Paul who was not one of his students, healed the sick and reformed the sinner by their religion.

Example of the disciples

11 | 150:4-8

6 To-day the healing power of Truth is widely demonstrated as an **immanent**, eternal Science, instead of a **phenomenal exhibition**. Its appearing is the coming anew of the gospel of "on earth peace, good-will toward men."

The main purpose



12 | 226:25

27 The lame, the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the sick, the sensual, the sinner, I wished to save from the slavery of their own beliefs and from the educational systems of the Pharaohs, who to-day, as of yore, hold the children of Israel in bondage. I saw before me the awful conflict, the Red Sea and the wilderness; but I pressed on through faith in God, trusting Truth, the strong deliverer, to guide me into the land of Christian Science, where fetters fall and the rights of man are fully known and acknowledged.

House of bondage

13 | 548:5

6 In this Science, we discover man in the image and likeness of God. We see that man has never lost his spiritual **estate** and his eternal harmony.

14 | 162:4

6 Christian Science brings to the body the sunlight of Truth, which invigorates and purifies. Christian Science acts as an **alterative**, neutralizing error with Truth. It changes the secretions, expels humors, dissolves tumors, relaxes rigid muscles, restores **carious** bones to soundness. The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind.

Truth an alterative

15 | 227:21-26

21 Christian Science raises the **standard** of liberty and cries: "Follow me! Escape from the bondage of sickness, sin, and death!" Jesus marked out the way. Citizens of the world, accept the "glorious liberty of the children of God," and be free! This is your divine right.

Standard of liberty

16 | 570:14-18, 23-24

15 Millions of unprejudiced minds — simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert — are waiting and watching for rest and drink. Give them a cup of cold water in Christ's name, and never fear the consequences.

Receptive hearts

Those ready for the blessing

24 you impart will give thanks.

15 | Ephesians 1:2-6

2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.



16 | Jude 1:24, 25 (to 1st.)

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

17 | Revelation 7:12 *Blessing*

12 Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.



In this passage, the word “predestinated” (*proorizo* in Greek) relates to God foreordaining us, or establishing and appointing us beforehand by His divine will. The “adoption of children” (*hiothesia* in Greek) relates to the Parent-child relationship between God and us, as His children.

WORD HIGHLIGHTS
profession: public statement or claim of one’s feelings or beliefs
pinions: flight feathers; wings
multitudinous: great many; numerous
primal: original; first; primary

17 | 15:25-30

Christians rejoice in secret beauty and bounty, hidden from the world, but known to God. Self-forgetfulness, purity, and affection are constant prayers. Practice not **profession**, understanding not belief, gain the ear and right hand of omnipotence and they assuredly call down infinite blessings.

Trustworthy beneficence

18 | 107:10

Through Christian Science, religion and medicine are inspired with a diviner nature and essence; fresh **pinions** are given to faith and understanding, and thoughts acquaint themselves intelligently with God.

Mission of Christian Science

19 | 264:13

As mortals gain more correct views of God and man, **multitudinous** objects of creation, which before were invisible, will become visible. When we realize that Life is Spirit, never in nor of matter, this understanding will expand into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing no other consciousness.

Self-completeness

20 | 568:26-30

A louder song, sweeter than has ever before reached high heaven, now rises clearer and nearer to the great heart of Christ; for the accuser is not there, and Love sends forth her **primal** and everlasting strain.

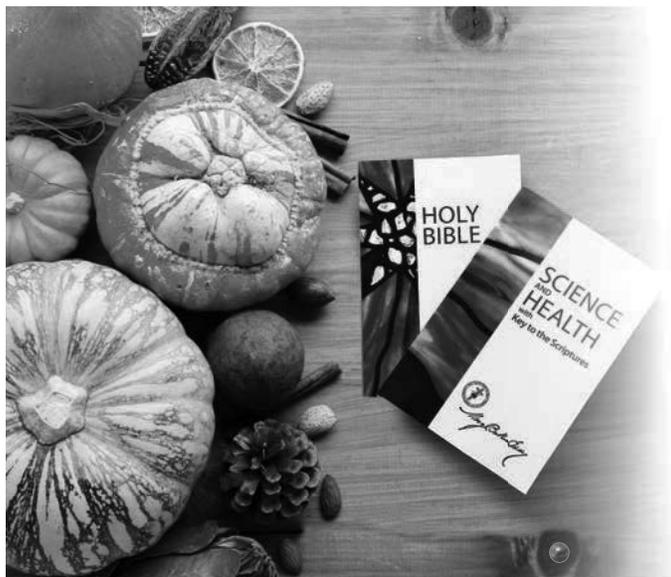
Paean of jubilee

21 | 520:3-5 *The (to !)*

3 The depth, breadth, height, might, majesty, and glory of infinite Love fill all space. That is enough!

NOTES

How does expressing gratitude for God brighten up your day?



Never alone: God is always here

DURING THE SPRING A FEW YEARS AGO, I went abroad to Peru with a group of college students for three months. It was a life-changing semester filled with abundant adventure and opportunity, and stimulated immense personal and spiritual growth. One night in particular was a turning point for me in my study and practice of Christian Science.

Our group of students had just moved to Cusco with plans to live with homestay families there. This was very exciting because we no longer had the comfort of our professors nearby and would not be able to speak any English. We were fully immersed into a Peruvian home to practice our Spanish-speaking abilities.

I no longer felt I needed the comfort of my own home or to talk with my mom and dad. I had all I needed: an understanding of Christian Science and of God.

On the first night of this homestay experience, I woke up with an intense and alarming sickness. It was late at night, and I felt helpless, alone, and scared. The material situation seemed about as terrible as it could be. I remember trying to call my parents over Skype, hoping they might hear the ringing computer and wake up in the middle of the night. Sadly, they never answered, and I quickly felt that I was going to have to handle this situation on my own, with God.

Thankfully, through my smartphone, I had access to JSH-Online.com. I began listening to various audio articles.

As I listened, I remember being struck by one article that explained that many times people will go to Christian Science practitioners thinking merely in terms of trying to heal some material problem through spiritual means, and that is why they are not healed, because the problem is actually in thought, not in matter. As I recall, the article went on to say that we need to realize we are not fixing anything material, but that we must understand from the beginning that we are already entirely spiritual and perfect, and the need is simply to understand this. This is what brings healing. It assured us how peaceful we can feel, knowing that we are fixing something only in thought.

Immediately after I heard this, my tears of sorrow literally turned into tears of joy. I felt so grateful to have Christian Science, the most divinely comforting thing I could ever have. I no longer felt I needed the comfort of my own home or to talk with my mom and dad. I had all I needed: an understanding of Christian Science and of God.

I prayed to know that God is tender Love, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, holding us eternally in His everlasting arms. Nothing can bring more peace than this truth. As a hymn says, "The thought of Thee is mightier far / Than sin and pain and sorrow are" (Samuel Longfellow, *Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 134).

Comforted by my newfound gratitude for Christian Science, I continued listening to articles throughout the night. The more articles I listened to, the more clearly I perceived the omnipotent, unstoppable power of God; and the more unreal the claim of sickness became to my thought. I just kept thinking about how blessed I was to know the Science and reality of being.

Within two days, I was completely well and participating fully in my activities. However, what was greater to me than the recovery of my sense of health was that my thought was completely at peace and I felt a deep renewal of joy. This

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

healing transformed my life. I had previously been struggling from constant mental unrest regarding body image, relationships, and a couple of other aspects of my life. After this healing, all those discordant thoughts and the turbulence I had been feeling just melted away. I became happier, more cheerful, less stressed, and focused on my right priorities.

I started reading *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy fervently, every day. On each day that I was in my homestay house, I made sure never to leave without praying and feeling grounded in a conviction of God's goodness. My life was uplifted and blessed by the realization that divine Science is the Comforter, bringing harmony to every discordant situation.

I believe that this healing came about from an earnest desire to know God. Isolated in a time of dire need, I had humbly asked for God's guidance and help. This childlike turning to God had filled me with the satisfaction of divine Love, and showed me how an understanding of God heals

not only the physical body but also the heart.

Science and Health states: "Not materially but spiritually we know Him as divine Mind, as Life, Truth, and Love. We shall obey and adore in proportion as we apprehend the divine nature and love Him understandingly, warring no more over the corporeality, but rejoicing in the affluence of our God. Religion will then be of the heart and not of the head" (p. 140).

Through this healing, I was able to rejoice wholeheartedly in the goodness of Love, with a renewed spirit and confidence in God's allness, and since then I have continued to receive immeasurable blessings.



This article was originally published in the **June 2015** issue of *The Christian Science Journal*.

You can find this piece (and thousands more!) at jsh.christianscience.com.



We have hidden an image of a pearl [●] somewhere in the pages of myBibleLesson. HAPPY PEARL HUNTING!

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COVER: pixelliebe/iStock/Getty Images Plus/Getty Images: autumn background with pumpkins, leaves, and berries

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PEARL HINT: Gratitude helps us see the fullness of God's creation.

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"BC" stands for *before Christ* and refers to dates before the birth of Jesus. "AD" stands for *anno domini*, which is a Latin phrase meaning "in the year of the Lord" in reference to Jesus. All dates labeled "AD" happened after Jesus's birth.

Christian Science info: see christianscience.com or jsh-online.com.

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