

July 10, 2006 – Subject: Life.

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from: REVELATION AND DEMONSTRATION FOR YOU - by Clifford and Daisy Stamp

LIFE IN DIVINE SCIENCE

God - is the Only Life

This morning one of the first things that came to me was these words from one of Mrs. Eddy's hymns:

“Strongest deliverer, friend of the friendless, Life of all being divine” (Mis. 399:11-12).

In the wonderful calculus of spiritual ideas, which Science presents, we find the true sense of Life, which not only blesses us and everyone we think about, but also the whole world. Think of it: “Life of all being divine”!

I was telling you yesterday that two references kept coming to me for many months, and I mentioned that the first reference was, “We know Principle only through Science” (My. 149:5) The second one was this: “The author has healed hopeless organic disease, and raised the dying to life and health through the understanding of God as the only Life” (S. & H. 428:30-32). What a statement! I began to ask myself: why does Mrs. Eddy say that and what does she mean? So I began to study this one Life, and it is a truly glorious picture. When you and I understand that God is the only Life, we shall do the works, which the Master did, we shall heal as Mrs. Eddy did, and we shall have a sense of reality that will be too wonderful to put into words.

Life is the Great I AM

I feel that if during this week we can grasp some aspects of divine Science, – the facts of one Life, one Truth, one Love, and one divine Principle, Love, – then they will expand and expand in our thought and bring real progress.

This is how I have summed up Principle's activity as Life: Life is forever expressing Himself to Himself as infinite individuality, infinite inspiration, infinite exaltation, infinite immortality, infinite multiplication. Moses caught a glimpse of that when he heard God say, "I AM THAT I AM." I want to go over that again, because it will help us to touch the spiritual sense of Life, and so I do ask you to let your thought dwell on it: Life is forever expressing Himself to Himself as infinite individuality, infinite inspiration, infinite exaltation, infinite immortality, infinite multiplication, and Moses saw that in a degree when he heard God say, "I AM THAT I AM."

I am loving this sense of the I AM. A little girl who understood something of this. I AM, said, "I must never say I am sick, because the one I AM is never sick." She glimpsed the wonderful fact that she could not express anything that God was not expressing. How different it is from that sense of things which sometimes makes us say, "Well, I'm trying to make this demonstration," or "I'm feeling a little bit better," or "I don't think I'm so well," and everything of that kind. The I AM gives us the certainty, "I am well, I am immortal, I am perfect, I am exalted now." As we understand this Life which is the everlasting I AM, we find the straight and narrow way to health and happiness in our own experience. Do let us cultivate this habit of living in the "now," – the "now" of infinite Life, the great I AM, – instead of always putting off health and happiness to some future time!

Today I want to take a few references which bring out a very positive sense of Life, and as we look at them we shall see that they contain a wealth of ideas. Mrs. Eddy writes, "Because Life is God, Life must be eternal, self-existent. Life is the everlasting I AM, the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase" (S. & H. 289:32-2). I have gone over that statement many, many times, and the more I think about it the more I love it. Just dwell on Life as the I AM, "the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase"! The understanding of that I AM has completely changed my method of working in Science, and as we go on I will show you what I mean.

In studying for these talks, I have found again and again how right Mr. Doorly was in the statements he made. For instance, he said that the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," was written mainly from the aspect of Christian Science, which means, as we know, Science as applied to humanity, and in studying I have found how true that is. But here and there in a very definite way Mrs. Eddy presents the facts of Life, Truth, and Love in

divine Science as so dynamic that they just wash out completely any sense of an opposite. Of course, that is what you would expect in divine Science. When you really arrive at some aspect of perfection, you know it, and that results in the annihilation of everything unlike that reality. Here, for instance, we have seen that in speaking of Life in divine Science Mrs. Eddy makes this brief but glorious statement: "Life is the everlasting I AM, the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase."

Life in and of Spirit

Let us take a reference, which will help us to see what Mrs. Eddy means when she says that she healed through the understanding of God as the only Life. "This knowledge came to me in an hour of great need; and I give it to you as death-bed testimony to the daystar that dawned on the night of material sense. This knowledge is practical, for it wrought my immediate recovery from an injury caused by an accident, and pronounced fatal by the physicians. On the third day thereafter, I called for my Bible, and opened it at Matthew ix. 2. As I read, the healing Truth dawned upon my sense; and the result was that I rose, dressed myself, and ever after was in better health than I had before enjoyed. That short experience included a glimpse of the great fact that I have since tried to make plain to others, namely, Life in and of Spirit; this Life being the sole reality of existence" (Mis. 24:4-18). Throughout her writings Mrs. Eddy brings out that sense of Life in and of Spirit, and Paul certainly saw the beauty of this when he said, "to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Let us consider what this one Life really is, – Life in and of Spirit. What does it mean to you and to me? Perhaps we shall understand that if we see first of all what the material sense of life involves. The material sense of life, with all its false systems (such as material science, false theology, materia medica), sin, sickness, disease, death, lack, fear, beginning and ending, and so forth, is a dream. In a dream, everything taking place is real to the dreamer, and only when he awakens from that dream does he know that the experience never happened to him. Mrs. Eddy says, "Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding and the consciousness of man's dominion over the whole earth" (S. & H. 14:25-28). So we learn in Science that the Life divine never mingles with the material sense of life at any point. Today we need to know the onliness and allness of the one Life, and that our

true body is consciousness. If we go on believing in the material sense of life, we end up an old “crock” and prepare to pass out of the picture, not knowing “whence we come, and whither we go.”

As we go on, we shall see the difference between believing in and being governed by the so-called material life (which ends in decay and decrepitude and everything that man doesn’t want), and the spiritual sense of Life, which forever exalts and inspires and multiplies. I love those words from a hymn: “O Life, that maketh all things new.” If we have the sense that Life is forever making all things new, we just can’t believe that man can decay or die.

“Thou Shalt Have No Belief of Life as Mortal”

How are we going to lay aside the material sense of life? By having that cultivated spiritual understanding of divine Science which says, “There is one Life, which is in and of Spirit.” Here is a reference which will help us to see how we can realize the one Life: “Jesus urged the commandment, ‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me,’ which may be rendered: Thou shalt have no belief of Life as mortal; thou shalt not know evil, for there is one Life, – even God, good” (S. & H. 19:29-1). When we were studying that passage with a friend, we suddenly became aware of this great demand of Science: “Thou shalt have no belief of Life as mortal; thou shalt not know evil, for there is one Life”!

Now, you may say, “How in the world do I do that? Here am I, surrounded with the belief of mortality, surrounded by material law, and everything talks to me about the material sense of life. How am I going to get to the point where I have no belief of Life as mortal?” Well, the way to begin is to cultivate the habit of thinking about the one Life. You will find that if you begin to dwell on these wonderful statements about Life, they will permeate your consciousness and you will begin to lose some of the false beliefs of mortality; until eventually you will ascend, as Jesus did; he ascended at the point where he knew only Life in and of Spirit. That experience has to come to every one of us; it’s bound to come. But of course what we want to know at the moment is what we do now, and where we start now, and that’s what I shall try to show you.

Life Abundant

I am going to tell you of something very beautiful which happened in my experience and which made me see how vital every statement

about Life is. All these facts, which I tell you, are very real to me, because God has not only shown them to me, but He has also proved them to me.

Some years ago, when we were just beginning to study the seven synonymous terms for God and we were going to give a talk on Life, I was sitting at home one day bathing my thought in all that I knew at that time about Life. I was turning up some of the references to Life in the Concordance to Mrs. Eddy's writings, and I caught a sense of Life such as I had never had before. As I was studying, the telephone rang, and it was someone asking if I would help an accident case. A young man had been picked up unconscious, lying in a country road, having been thrown off his motor bike, and in desperation the mother of this boy had got hold of a friend and asked her to telephone me. The boy had been taken unconscious to hospital, and the verdict by a leading surgeon was that he would not recover, because he had lost a lot of blood and his brain was badly damaged. Now, with this sense that was flooding my thought I saw that the whole story of that boy was a lie. I saw that God's idea had never been touched, and that losing a lot of blood wasn't anything to do with that boy's life, because he had abundant life and that was the only fact of his being. I bathed my thought in what I knew about Life, and I wouldn't accept the so-called facts about that boy. The result was that that evening I had a message to say that to the surprise of the surgeon the boy had regained consciousness, but the brain was so badly damaged that they still felt that his case was hopeless. To cut a long story short, in a fortnight that boy came out of hospital one hundred percent well, with not even a scar to show where the head had split open. The surgeon said to the mother, as they were leaving, "This is indeed a miracle."

That boy was at college, and he was due to sit a few weeks later for a very difficult examination, but the doctor did not want him to study for it, and so his mother came along to me again and said, "What about this exam?" I looked at her and said, "You know what God can do. Are you going to stop half-way?" And she said, "I will go back and tell him to go on." He went back to college and prepared for the exam and passed with flying colors. Now, all that took place because I had listened to the facts of the one Life which God had revealed to me.

The Life that Knows No Death

When I was studying Life a few months ago, probably in a larger way and a deeper way than I knew a few years ago, I again saw how

necessary it is to take a stand for that one Life. At this time our beloved King passed on and everyone was talking about it. The first time I heard the news, I was alone, and I said to myself, "It isn't true. No one ever dies. He's living and loving and rejoicing at this moment as much as ever he was." I wouldn't accept the lie that he wasn't in the presence of Life, although I heard a lot of people during the day sorrowing over it. When I got home, I said aloud, "No one has died. It isn't true. The only thing operating is the one Life that knows no death." Now, a wonderful thing happened. A little later I was asked to help a child living a long way away from here; his mother rang me up and said that he was ill and completely listless, and she asked if I would help him. I worked for two or three days and nothing happened to that child – he became worse instead of better. Then there was one day when I was away from home, and his mother rang me up when I did get home and said that she had been trying to get me all day, because it looked as if that little chap was going to pass on. Here was a child who had always been full of energy and full of vitality, and he had lost all interest in life and didn't seem to be here at all. She said that because she couldn't get me on the telephone, she and her husband sat down together and began to analyze what had been happening in their life and in their home, and she said that the error was uncovered in the most wonderful way as a result of that intelligent analysis. She told me that in order to try to give the child some interest, she had said to him, "What about your diary that you love to write in? What about putting something down about the day we went over to see Mrs. So-and-so?" The only thing he said was, "I don't want ever to put anything in my diary about Mrs. So-and-so," and immediately the mother remembered that at Mrs. So-and-so's they had watched the King's funeral on the television. That child had been brought up in Christian Science, and the picture of death had so preyed on his mind that it was the governing error at the back of the whole situation. And so when his mother told me this, and was full of regret that he had ever seen the program, I said, "There has never been a King's funeral. That's what we've got to know. If there had never been a King's funeral, your child would be well."

I came away from the telephone and sat down and the one thing that flooded my thought was, "There has never been a King's funeral." Now, some people might think I was mad if I told them that that had come to my thought, because sense testimony said that there had been a King's funeral and that millions were believing in it. But "one on God's side is a majority," and the sense of Life that came to me

was wonderful. I glowed with it, and I went off to bed happy. The next morning the mother rang up and said, "I can't tell you in words what I feel. I went into his bedroom this morning and that child who seemed to be passing away yesterday was standing on his head with the joy of life." Think what that meant! Now, that's what this understanding of the one Life can do.

I am certain that that case was healed because I had already refused to be mesmerized by mass thinking and because I refused to come down from that sense that the only thing going on was Life, – the one Life that knows no death. The parents of that child, because of some understanding of Science, were not mesmerized by looking at the child's body, but they turned away from the mortal picture, and intelligently analyzed the mental condition. Because of this, the governing error was uncovered. So here was a lovely illustration of Life expressing itself – through me, through the parents, and through the child. When I think about this one Life, not only does inspiration fill my consciousness, but also I bow in humility before its omnipotence.

The Forever Newness of Life

If only we will stop being mesmerized by material sense! I meet many people who call themselves students of Christian Science and sometimes the first thing they say to me is, "Have you heard that So-and-so has passed on?" or "Have you heard that Mr. X is ill?" Now, let's not do it. If we are going to listen to the facts of being, and if we're going to touch and demonstrate this wonderful story of the one Life, the only Life, – omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and omniscient, the only thing ever going on, – we must keep awake, and quickly reverse what sense testimony is telling us.

For instance, not one of us wants to get old or to lose our faculties, and yet we go on making a great deal of birthdays. A child of five loves to say that it's five because it is proud of what it can do, and a person of seventy-five will love to tell you their age because they think that there's something lovely in it, but it's a completely false sense of Life. Life is nothing whatever to do with age or time, and we all know that when we stop to think. If we believe that we started materially, at a certain point in time, then we are accepting the mortal picture and we are not believing the fact of divine Science that Life is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

We do need to be awake about these things if we want to demonstrate this one Life. Can anything be more inspiring than to experience here

and now the forever newness of Life, with its infinite multiplication and infinite progression? When I think of those two experiences which came because of a small understanding of the one Life, I thank God with all my heart for Science which has a divine system, so that all men can understand and demonstrate the one Life.

Individuality Expressing Itself

Mrs. Eddy on one occasion quoted some words about looking “through nature up to nature’s God,” and the other day when Clifford and I were sitting in the garden talking about Life and what it really means, Clifford said, “You know, to me Life always seems to be individuality expressing itself. Every blade of grass, every leaf, every bird at this time of the year seems to be bursting forth with its individuality.” That is just the material symbol, of course, but we can’t afford to ignore that symbol. Science teaches the allness of Mind and the nothingness of matter, but at the moment we still reason through symbols, and we see ideas through material symbols (although it is always in spite of matter and never because of it); and so as he said that, I caught a glimpse of individuality in a way I had never done before. As I stopped to listen, the birds were singing and singing, and the leaves seemed to be unfolding before my eyes, and the whole world had that bursting sense which it has in the spring. I feel that if we can grasp something of true individuality, as that which always expresses itself, we shall glimpse something of what Life really is.

Individuality Knows No Restrictions

Let us look at the picture in the world today. What is happening to individuality? It’s being suppressed in every phase of life. There is in the world today a great deal of mass thinking; instead of people thinking for themselves, they tend to do blindly what someone else tells them to do. Then take the business world: there may be a man who is brilliant, but he’s restricted on every hand, because of a false sense of rules and regulations; instead of being able to use the ideas which come to him and which would bless him and bless his business and bless the country, there’s restriction and limitation. And so it is vitally important for us to see what individuality really means.

Now, someone will say, “Well, if I live in England, what’s the good of trying to get beyond the restrictions?” But in Science we don’t live in England: we live in the realm of Science, the realm of reality. Everything we think affects our body, our home, our business, and our universe, and so think of the results if only some of our fine business men and

women in this country understood what Principle is interpreting! If they understood something of the one Life with its infinite multiplication and inspiration, and if they would take those ideas which Principle gives them and live with them and not forsake them just because they think that today they're impossible, and if they would remember that their whole being, their whole business, the whole of their activity, is taking place in the realm of ideas, in the realm of Science, what a difference there would be! The way would open up irresistibly for the fulfillment of those ideas.

In Science there is not only this abundant sense of Life forever expressing itself as ideas, but also the fact that these ideas are already fulfilled. No human government can stop or limit spiritual ideas, and so to the businessman this story of the one Life is invaluable. If anyone in the business world will realize that he as an idea, his business as an idea, his universe as an idea, is identified with that one Life which is also Truth and Love, which means that every idea has form and is already fulfilled, then there is no limit to the good he will accomplish.

No Lack in Science

Let us face up to this claim that there are restrictions and limitations on all sides and that we're in for a slump and a bad time. Let us see that on the one hand there is the fact of Life and its abundance, and that on the other there is the claim of animal magnetism and all its aggressive suggestions. Let us be awake and not accept these suggestions of frustration. Let us know that animal magnetism cannot operate through us or through our business or through our government to interfere with the success and the fulfillment and the abundance of God's ideas. Because the one Life is the only activity going on, there is no life in matter and therefore no animal magnetism to operate. We need to watch that we always handle animal magnetism as nothing claiming to be something. I believe that if even a few of us will see this, we shall help this England of ours in the most wonderful way.

Why is there lack? Why is there limitation? There are two reasons. First of all, there is very little understanding of the one Life, and the second reason is that for the most part people are mesmerized by the material sense of life with all its limitations. So everyone from the greatest statesman down thinks that we're in for a bad time. You hear people saying, "Things are never going to get right in our time." What a lack of inspiration and hope! Our job is to live in the realm of Science, as the Master did. With five loaves and two fishes, – that is, with an understanding of Life in and of Spirit, – he fed a multitude, and there's

just as much of that Life present for us to-day. There is just as much of Life today as ever there was, but people are believing in the material sense of life and therefore they are beset with restriction and lack. In this understanding of the one Life, the one Being, – infinite inspiration, “infinite exaltation, infinite immortality, infinite multiplication, – there is the answer to the world’s limitations, the way out of the world’s great sense of lack. Think how different the world would be if restrictions were removed and there was a flow of good in human experience!

Now, things are going on as they are because of ignorance of God, and only the scientific understanding of the Bible will change the picture. The understanding of Science contained in the Bible and in “Science and Health” will bring in-spiration, individuality, and multiplication of all that is good in this human experience. When we take the facts of Science and we apply them in our own individual way, thought is exalted and we really begin to experience that abundant Life which the master Metaphysician talked about....

...Identity Yourself with Infinite Life

You and I will help ourselves so much if we will declare that we are identified with the one Life, – that we are identified with infinite individuality, infinite inspiration, infinite exaltation and multiplication. Sense is identifying you with the opposite – it says that you are poor, or that you are uninspired, or that you can’t express yourself freely. That’s what sense is always saying, but individuality says, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

...When you and I begin to see that there’s one Life, one Truth, and one Love, which is the story of divine Science, and that that is the only fact in reality, then we can’t help seeing clearly that the only thing that is operating through me, through you, and through everyone, is Life, Truth, and Love. When we see that, we have that glorious sense not of God creating something and putting it “out there,” and that something “out there” reflecting God, but the dynamic sense of God forever reflecting on Himself and that reflection being me and you and all creation. Principle and its idea is one, so don’t you see that the thing in Science is to keep thinking of God and what He is doing and to turn away from the mortal sense of life? That’s the way that we are going to be able to “have no belief of Life as mortal” and “not to know evil,” as Science demands of us.

I suggest that if you want to think about God as Life, you dwell on these references in which Mrs. Eddy gives such a definite sense of Life. Suppose that first thing in the morning, before you get up, you begin to think about these facts. Suppose you begin to think, "Well now, the only I AM is Life, 'the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase,' " and then suppose you follow that by thinking, "There's only one thing going on, and that is that one infinite Life forever expressing Himself to Himself as infinite individuality, infinite inspiration, infinite exaltation, infinite multiplication." As your consciousness is filled with those facts of Principle interpreting itself as Life, they will operate in your human experience in the most dynamic way.

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