

The following passages are from the King James Version of the Bible and from *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy. They were used as introductory readings for an informal Wednesday night testimony meeting at the Christian Science Church in Ashland, Oregon.

Song 2:11-13 (to .)

- 11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
- 12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;
- 13 The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell.

Job 11:13-17

- 13 If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;
- 14 If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.
- 15 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear:
- 16 Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:
- 17 And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

John 5:1-9, 14

- 1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
 - 2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.
 - 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.
 - 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.
 - 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.
 - 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?
 - 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.
 - 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.
 - 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked:
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- 14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

I John 2:8

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you:
because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

296:4-298:15

Progress is born of experience. It is the ripening of mortal man, through which the mortal is dropped for
6 the immortal. Either here or hereafter, suffering or Science must destroy all illusions regarding life and mind, and regenerate material sense
9 and self. The old man with his deeds must be put off. Nothing sensual or sinful is immortal. The death of a false material sense and of sin, not the death of organic
12 matter, is what reveals man and Life, harmonious, real, and eternal.

Scientific
purgation

The so-called pleasures and pains of matter perish,
15 and they must go out under the blaze of Truth, spiritual sense, and the actuality of being. Mortal belief must lose all satisfaction in error and sin in order to part with
18 them.

Whether mortals will learn this sooner or later, and how long they will suffer the pangs of destruction, depends upon the tenacity of error.
21

The knowledge obtained from the corporeal senses leads to sin and death. When the evidence of Spirit
24 and matter, Truth and error, seems to commingle, it rests upon foundations which time is wearing away. Mortal mind judges by the testimony
27 of the material senses, until Science obliterates this false testimony. An improved belief is one step out of error, and aids in taking the next step and in understanding
30 the situation in Christian Science.

Mixed
testimony

Mortal belief is a liar from the beginning, not deserving power. It says to mortals, "You are wretched!" and they
1 think they are so; and nothing can change this state, until the belief changes. Mortal belief says, "You are happy!"
3 and mortals are so; and no circumstance can alter the situation, until the belief on this subject changes. Human belief says to mortals, "You are
6 sick!" and this testimony manifests itself on the body as sickness. It is as necessary for a health-illusion, as for an illusion of sickness, to be instructed out of itself into
9 the understanding of what constitutes health; for a change in either a health-belief or a belief in sickness affects the physical condition.

Belief an
autocrat

12 Erroneous belief is destroyed by truth. Change the evidence, and that disappears which before seemed real to this false belief, and the human conscious-

Self-

15 ness rises higher. Thus the reality of being improvement
is attained and man found to be immortal. The only
fact concerning any material concept is, that it is neither
18 scientific nor eternal, but subject to change and dis-
solution.

Faith is higher and more spiritual than belief. It is
21 a chrysalis state of human thought, in which spiritual
evidence, contradicting the testimony of mate- Faith higher
rial sense, begins to appear, and Truth, the than belief
24 ever-present, is becoming understood. Human thoughts
have their degrees of comparison. Some thoughts are
better than others. A belief in Truth is better than a
27 belief in error, but no mortal testimony is founded on the
divine rock. Mortal testimony can be shaken. Until
belief becomes faith, and faith becomes spiritual under-
30 standing, human thought has little relation to the actual
or divine.

A mortal belief fulfils its own conditions. Sickness,
1 sin, and death are the vague realities of human conclu-
sions. Life, Truth, and Love are the realities of divine
3 Science. They dawn in faith and glow full-orbed in
spiritual understanding. As a cloud hides the sun it
cannot extinguish, so false belief silences for a while the
6 voice of immutable harmony, but false belief cannot de-
stroy Science armed with faith, hope, and fruition.

What is termed material sense can report only a mor-
9 tal temporary sense of things, whereas spiritual sense can
bear witness only to Truth. To material sense, Truth's
the unreal is the real until this sense is corrected witness
12 by Christian Science.

Spiritual sense, contradicting the material senses, in-
volves intuition, hope, faith, understanding, fruition, real-
15 ity.

306:25

Undisturbed amid the jarring testimony of the
material senses, Science, still enthroned, is unfolding
27 to mortals the immutable, harmonious, divine Principle,
— is unfolding Life and the universe, ever present and
eternal.