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**OUR THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY**

By Mary Baker Eddy

“Every day, every hour, our work increases in effectiveness and power.”

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**THINK UPON THIS**

Belief is changeable, but spiritual understanding is changeless.

S & H page (96:23-24)

**A QUOTE FROM THE PAST**

By J. Howard Payne

Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, Be it ever so humble there's no place like home.

**GEMS FROM OUR HERITAGE**

By Doris White Evans

Wherever I am, no matter what I am confronted with, I must see the man God made. And most of all, I must love him.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Mark Christmas Eve on your calendar. At 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Plainfield Church's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will begin. Come join us for this holy service, and see our beautifully decorated church. But if you can't make it in person, listen to the beautiful Christmas music and readings on your phone or computer.

**JIM'S CORNER**

Where do you find the longest verse in the Bible?  
Esther 8:9.

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**THOUGHTS FROM MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS**

Page 156:17-19.

Science is absolute, and best understood through the study of my works and the daily Christian demonstration thereof.

**QUOTES FROM PETER ROSS**

Page 88

Mind directs all the functions of being and therefore nothing in your system can become disturbed or disarranged. There cannot be any additions at any point, nor can there be any subtractions from other places.

**JOY**

Hymn 3, in our Hymnal has a very strong and healing message for all. The words are posted on my refrigerator door. If at any time one needs to realize more gratitude, merely read, or preferably sing, these words:

A grateful heart a garden is,

Where there is always room

For every lovely, God-like grace

To come to perfect bloom.

Each stanza has a very healing message for all to cherish. Long before you complete stanza four, your heart will be filled with joy.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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May  
this  
Season  
be filled  
with joy for  
all. One most  
important key for  
this season is that we  
not forget that the word  
Christmas contains Christ. It  
is His birth that we honor with this  
Holy Day. And let us regard this as a  
Holy Day, rather than a holiday. May  
this representation of *der Tannenbaum*  
(the Christmas tree) bring happiness to  
all and come closer,  
to the  
Truth  
of Being.

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE

Joseph McTaggart

A few days ago, I was putting up my Christmas tree, and I thought that it would be a very good idea to add cards of the names of the people that I am grateful for in life. Within a few moments I had written the cards; but as I put them on the tree, there was an opinion that came up that said, “Well you are not really grateful for this person; you kind of just tolerate them.”

Very quickly there were two piles—one for people that I was grateful for, and a very large pile of people that I simply tolerated that I felt that I wasn’t really grateful for. This showed me that I had a lot of work to do in seeing people as God made them, people to be grateful for, people who are serving God in many different ways across the world.

So I prayed about the situation and finally I put all of the cards on the tree with great joy. Every time I pass that

tree I catch a name and it reminds me to work even harder to see people as God made them, just to redefine my thinking about them. It has become something of a prayer tree rather than a Christmas tree, and it is a wonderful blessing to see it with the names of the people in my life.

Also, recently the word “unity” has been coming up in my thought, possibly because of the Roundtable using the unity prayer at the beginning. Recently it also was mentioned the book *Unity of Good* was once known as *Unity of Good, Unreality of Evil*.

Uniting with the church is something that we should all take very seriously. I have been very fortunate and blessed to have been able to help the church with their audio Lessons, which these days has evolved into a very prolific audio ministry of books and other kinds of audios along with the Lesson, and in many different languages.

However, working for the church does not negate the responsibility of financial giving. These days I am not doing very much for the church, and I have been looking at ways to help financially. I must admit, when I went to the donation page on the website to make a donation, there was an opinion which said, “Well, you’ve done work for the church in the past why should you help it financially?” Another opinion which said, “You can’t really afford this.” However, after reading Gilbert Carpenter’s article, “The Widow’s Mite,” which is on the website, it became very clear what my responsibilities in Science were. Strangely, as soon as I did make that contribution, I felt a wonderful sense of unity. I felt that I was uniting with something, something much bigger than myself. It helped me feel part of a

wonderful mission. I am grateful to have that opportunity.

About expenditure, strangely, as soon as I made that first contribution, money appeared from nowhere in my bank account and I found that I had a lot more than I had bargained for. I was really surprised by that. It shows that when you do something and trust in God, God in turn blesses you.

### **A NEW YEAR**

We barely renew ourselves from the Christmas Season, and we have thrust upon us a holiday, New Year's Day. With a bit of effort, we can transform this holiday into another Holy Day. So often, New Year's Eve is transformed into a time for office parties, sporting events, and other festive events. New Year resolutions abound. Could we not make one of our resolutions a pledge to be a better Christian Scientist?

### **SEASONAL CHANGES FROM FALL TO WINTER**

The Fall Season has given way to the Wintery Season. The leaves have fallen and are mostly raked up. Where it is still legal to burn leaves, just recall the fragrance of burning leaves. Although many may feel these are representations of labor, but is it not possible to rejoice over them as God's handiwork?

To further emphasize this, recently one day the temperature was in the 90s here in Arizona, and the very following day the temperature had dropped into the 60s as a high. This was a result of a rather heavy cloud cover. While eating dinner it was noted that the landscape had taken on a gray color. Noting the distant hills to the east, one spot about halfway up the hills displayed sunlight peeking through the clouds. What a lovely view with varying brilliant oranges reflecting from the rocks.

Just imagine for a moment flying over the Appalachians and viewing the lovely colors of the fall season. Weeks later, the same trip would hold for you the absolute beauty of freshly fallen snow.

### **WINTERIZING**

Much of the United States has already prepared their homes for the winter season by draining outside water pipes and sealing their homes from the brisk winter winds. Shall we take an inventory as to how well we have winterized our lives? What readily available tool is available for this task, but our starting each day with the thoughtful study of our Lesson Sermon?

### **"CONSIDER THE LILIES"**

Our title is from Matthew 6:28. Rather than lilies, think for a moment about another unique plant, the Christmas Cactus. For most of the year it almost seems to be dormant, for its foliage is very slow growing. Shortly before Christmas, buds appear at the tip



of the stems. These buds burst into blooms, as witness the photo. What does this reveal to us?

Consider for a moment this very special event. It is impossible to consider any solution except that this is the result of a loving Father-Mother God who is providing beauty for all His ideas to behold.

## **SPIRITUALIZING THOUGHT**

A while back, it was suggested that I study an article by Martha Wilcox in her book, *Addresses*. Promptly, I did just that. But it did not end there, for the items I studied inspired me to continue reading her book, for it has been some time since this book was removed from the book case. In Martha Wilcox's style of writing, she answered the question, *How Do We Spiritualize Thought?* (Page 308) Do consider reading this article for if it inspires you as it did me, I am sure you will not stop till you have studied the full publication.

### **THREE POWERFUL STATEMENTS FROM CHRIST JESUS**

By Mary Beth Singleterry

Mrs. Eddy writes in *Miscellaneous Writings* on p. 196, "The sweet, sacred sense and permanence of man's unity with his Maker, in Science, illumines our present existence with the ever-presence and power of God, good. It opens wide the portals of salvation from sin, sickness, and death." This reminded me of something we learned here, and something we all practice, and that is the three powerful statements of Christ Jesus from the book of John in the Bible. They are, "I and my Father are one," (John 10:30), "the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works," (John 14:10), and "the Father hath not left me alone." (John 8:29) These are statements to use often. They are a treatment.

The first one is identifying yourself as one with God; He is right with us always, when we get ourselves out of the way. He expresses Himself through us. We can feel that oneness.

The second, the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. Always

remember this. It is never about ourselves, never about me, myself, and I. The focus is on God. He is always the healer. Anytime you say you cannot do something or can't heal, you are right; you can't, but God can. Christ Jesus knew this and that is why he could heal. This is something we must never forget as we go about our day. He is the one that doeth the works.

Finally, "He hath not left me alone." Many, times we can feel alone. Maybe we feel we don't have family or friends. Maybe we feel we are doing something in business that is very much alone, or taking a path that seems very lonely; but, in Truth, we are never alone. God, the Christ presence, is always with us. He is always there for us to turn to, to feel His presence and comfort, and to feel His guidance. This is a tremendous thought.

These three statements from Christ have served me well over the years. I am very grateful for the practitioner who gave them to me.

### **FROM MRS. EDDY**

*Course in Divinity and General  
Collectanea  
(The Blue Book), page 282*

Beloved brethren: My heart greets you with Christmas joy. Continue, fellow-worshippers, vigilant in that whereto God calleth thee. Unity imparts the spirit of the trinity. Opinions of men are not substitutes for Science. Be patient with misjudgment. Christ, Truth, overcometh error. Today is tomorrow understood. Love maketh right prosperous. Pure hearts and clean hands upbuild the Cause and Church of Christ, Scientist. Have one God, live in conformity therewith, obedient thereto, governed thereby.