

## Opportunity and Fulfillment

January 4, 2012

Bible:

[Rev 3:6-8 \(to 2nd :\)](#)

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:

[John 4:34-35](#)

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

[Isa 65:17-20 behold \(to :\), 21-24](#)

behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days:

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

[I Kings 19:1-4, 9, 11-13](#)

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with

the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to-morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. ¶But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

¶And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

[Matt 25:14-26 \(to 2nd \), 28-29 \(to :\)](#)

¶For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast

been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance:

#### [II Kings 4:1-7](#)

Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

[Luke 10:7 the labourer \(to 1st .\)](#)  
the labourer is worthy of his hire.

S&H:  
[494:10-15](#)

Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need. It is not well to imagine that Jesus demonstrated the divine power to heal only for a select number or for a limited period of time, since to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good.

The miracle of grace is no miracle to Love.

#### [167:22-26, 29](#)

It is not wise to take a halting and half-way position or to expect to work equally with Spirit and matter, Truth and error. There is but one way — namely, God and His idea — which leads to spiritual being.

On this fundamental point, timid conservatism is absolutely inadmissible. Only through radical reliance on Truth can scientific healing power be realized.

#### [254:2-6, 10-12, 27](#)

Individuals are consistent who, watching and praying, can "run, and not be weary; . . . walk, and not faint," who gain good rapidly and hold their position, or attain slowly and yield not to discouragement.

When we wait patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs our path.

If you launch your bark upon the ever-agitated but healthful waters of truth, you will encounter storms. Your good will be evil spoken of. This is the cross. Take it up and bear it, for through it you win and wear the crown. Pilgrim on earth, thy home is heaven; stranger, thou art the guest of God.

#### [322:26-30](#)

The sharp experiences of belief in the supposititious life of matter, as well as our disappointments and ceaseless woes, turn us like tired children to the arms of divine Love. Then we begin to learn Life in divine Science.

[323:6-18, 28-32](#)

Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity, which are the landmarks of Science. Beholding the infinite tasks of truth, we pause, — wait on God. Then we push onward, until boundless thought walks enraptured, and conception unconfined is winged to reach the divine glory.

In order to apprehend more, we must put into practice what we already know. We must recollect that Truth is demonstrable when understood, and that good is not understood until demonstrated. If "faithful over a few things," we shall be made rulers over many; but the one unused talent decays and is lost.

The effects of Christian Science are not so much seen as felt. It is the "still, small voice" of Truth uttering itself. We are either turning away from this utterance, or we are listening to it and going up higher.

[99:9-12, 15](#)

Truth has furnished the key to the kingdom, and with this key Christian Science has opened the door of the human understanding. None may pick the lock nor enter by some other door.

Christian Science is unerring and Divine; the human sense of things errs because it is human.

[6:25-27 \(to :\), 30](#)

her, and to Peter he said, "Thou art an offence unto me." He came teaching and showing men how to destroy sin, sickness, and death.

who lived in the time of Jesus, left this record: "His rebuke is fearful." The strong language of our Master confirms this description.

[224:22, 29-3](#)

A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this angel visitant, who cometh in the quiet of meekness, as he came of old to the patriarch at noonday?

The power of God brings deliverance to the captive. No power can withstand divine Love. What is this supposed power, which opposes itself to God? Whence cometh it? What is it that binds man with iron shackles to sin, sickness, and death? Whatever enslaves man is opposed to the divine government.

[Hymn 41](#)

Hymn 41  
Jane Borthwick  
Adapted

QUI LABORAT ORAT

Hugh P. Allen  
Music by permission of Hugh P. Allen

Come, labor on:  
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain?  
While all around him waves the golden grain,  
And to each servant does the Master say,  
Go work today.

Come, labor on:  
Claim the high calling that we all may share;  
To all the world the joyful tidings bear;  
Redeem the time: its hours too swiftly fly,  
Harvest draws nigh.

Come, labor on:  
Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear.  
No arm so weak but may do service here;

By means the simplest can our God fulfill  
His righteous will.

Come, labor on:  
The toil is pleasant, the reward is sure;  
Blessed are they who to the end endure;  
How full their joy, how sweet their rest shall be,  
O Lord, with Thee.

[Hymn 162](#)

Hymn 162  
Satisfied  
Mary Baker Eddy

SATIS  
Percy Whitlock

It matters not what be thy lot,  
So Love doth guide;  
For storm or shine, pure peace is thine,  
Whate'er betide.

And of these stones, or tyrants' thrones,  
God able is  
To raise up seed — in thought and deed —  
To faithful His.

Aye, darkling sense, arise, go hence!  
Our God is good.  
False fears are foes — truth tatters those,  
When understood.

Love looseth thee, and lifteth me,  
Ayont hate's thrall:  
There Life is light, and wisdom might,  
And God is All.

The centuries break, the earth-bound wake,  
God's glorified!  
Who doth His will — His likeness still —  
Is satisfied.

[Hymn 75](#)

Hymn 75  
James Montgomery  
Adapted

AURELIA  
Samuel S. Wesley

God comes, with succor speedy,  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.

His blessings come as showers  
Upon the thirsty earth;  
And joy and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains  
Shall Peace, the herald, go;  
From hill to vale the fountains  
Of righteousness shall flow.

To Him shall prayer unceasing,  
And daily vows, ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever:  
His changeless name of Love.