



GOD'S IMMORTAL WITNESSES

JANET CLEMENTS

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THE QUESTION OF IMMORTALITY has captivated thought throughout human history. This week's Bible Lesson on "Mortals and Immortals" provides some compelling insights and answers.

One idea that stands out is that God's witnesses must be immortal. A witness is one who attests to the facts, to the truth. The Bible says, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God" ([Isa. 43:12](#), citation 15). We are a living testimony to God's nature, which is defined in this Lesson as Spirit, eternal Life, and Principle, our lawgiver (see Responsive Reading, and Bible cits. 14, 16). As a natural consequence, God's witnesses express the indestructibility of Spirit, the continuity of eternal Life, and the unalterable law of God. Interestingly, one definition of *immortal* is "having no principle of alteration" (Webster's Dictionary, 1828).

For me, that forwards the idea that being immortal includes bearing witness to a law that can never be changed—the law of God, divine Principle. *Science and Health* puts it this way: "In divine Science, God and the real man are inseparable as divine Principle and idea" ([p. 476](#), cit. 6). As such, there can be no change, diminishing, or loss of the

essential spiritual qualities that define one's individual being. This Lesson, and especially Section II, "opened my eyes" to grasp the idea that divine law sustains, maintains, and perpetuates the wholeness of our being for eternity (see Ps. 119, cit. 6).

What a beautiful promise! How then can we make those ideas practical in our lives when there is so much evidence to the contrary all around us? What if we bump up against a seemingly intractable physical law that says we're sick or injured? The answers are presented in an allegory in *Science and Health*, in which the law of divine Mind comes up against the laws of matter and hygiene, and the appeal of Christian Science brings healing.

This allegory is spread through Sections II to IV, and takes the form of a case patterned after a typical court trial. A man who has been very unselfish in caring tirelessly for a sick friend is put on trial because, in doing this labor of love, he broke laws of health and became deathly ill. At the trial, many witnesses are called in support of this charge, and the jury pronounces the man guilty.

This caused me to ask, How many times do we see this basic idea played out in our own lives or in the world? How often are we actually innocent of wrongdoing—maybe even helping someone—when we're accused of breaking a material law, and find ourselves unjustly penalized and suffering the consequences?

I found passages interspersed that bring out many powerful truths to meet similar situations in our own lives or in those around us. As I pondered these segments, I was reminded that in the allegory it is the Christ—"the spirit of Life and the friend of Mortal Man"—that sets the defendant free (pp. 433–434, cit. 11). Then comes the verse from the book of Job that speaks about an interpreter who can show man his uprightness and "deliver his soul from going into the pit" ([Job 33:28](#), cit. 8). It becomes clear that the Christ is this true interpreter of being, proving and showing our uprightness. And this

Christly understanding reveals our true identity as witnesses of God, declaring our freedom from any law but the law of God: "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" ([Rom. 10:4](#), Responsive Reading).

In the allegory, the trial moves from the Court of Error to the Court of Spirit, where the man is found innocent of transgressing mortal laws because they cannot really exist in light of God's supreme law. Men and women are always free from any so-called laws of mortality. They bear witness to God's unalterable law of immortal Life.

This Lesson explores the idea that immortality is not going to be bestowed upon us at some future moment, but that its harmony belongs to all of us now as present witnesses of God. This is unequivocally stated at the beginning, in the Responsive Reading: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" ([Rom. 8:16](#)). And it's also encouraging to realize that an awareness of the nowness of our immortal nature, through which we express the law of Life, enables us to protest and "put off" mortal limitations. We can claim—"put on," however modestly—the immortal facts of our being, and in this way bear witness to our God-given freedom and harmony. |css

About the author

Janet Clements is a Christian Science practitioner and teacher in Chicago, Illinois.

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