



Thanksgiving: Goodness everywhere!

For the Lesson titled "Thanksgiving" 2012

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What pure joy to read this Thanksgiving Bible Lesson, filled with messages of gladness, singing, praise, and gratitude to God for His infinite goodness. Indeed, the Hebrew word for *thanksgiving* in [Psalms 50:14](#) (citation 12) means “choir of worshippers,” according to *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. This Lesson is truly singing with praise to God for the abundant good exemplified in His loving care for us, providing everything needed for our health and well-being for eternity.

Section III gives a beautiful example of God’s healing power in the restoration to health and wholeness of the crippled man sitting at the gate of the temple ([Acts 3:1–8](#), cit. 10). When Peter and John were about to go into the temple, this man begged them for money. Although Peter and John had no gold or silver, they did have something of even greater value. They understood the power and presence of the Christ, which reveals man’s true status as a perfect child of God. Peter asked the man to look on them. Perhaps what Peter was really asking him to do was to look up to the Christ, not to money, for help. The man took heed, expectant of receiving. The gift he received was more than money could buy.

Peter commanded the man in the name and authority of Christ Jesus to “rise up and walk” ([Acts 3:6](#), cit. 10). The words *rise up* in Greek mean to “waken” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*). Wasn’t this evidence of the awakening activity of the Christ in operation, rousing the man’s thought to receive the gift of the healing Christ that declared his present wholeness? And the man, who had never walked before, immediately rose up and walked, leaping with joyous thanksgiving as he entered with Peter and John into the temple.

The Golden Text from [Malachi 3:10](#) presents an interesting contrast between the gifts of man and the gifts of God. Although man gives a tithe, a tenth part of his income, to the house of the Lord, God's giving to us is not a measured part but is immeasurable in its blessings. When we give in service to God, we receive infinite blessings. Like rain from the sky, God's goodness keeps pouring forth "showers of blessings" ([Ezekiel 34:26](#), cit. 5). And everywhere in the Bible where the word *blessing* is used, referring to God's blessing, one of the original meanings is "prosperity," according to *Strong's* (see cites. 3 and 5).

The Responsive Reading includes the message from Psalms that God's "truth endureth to all generations" ([100:5](#)). This brought to my attention that God's abundance is expressed in His creation for all generations. How helpful this is in view of the world picture that says the next generation will have less prosperity than the present. Truly, our abundance and supply come not from variable, outside sources but continuously from the law of divine Love, always "meet[ing] every human need" (Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, [p. 494](#), cit. 7).

The word *magnify* ([Psalms 34:3](#)) in the Responsive Reading brings to mind a magnifying glass. With it one can see so much more than just the apparent things. It reveals clearly what is already present but undetected. The psalm invites us to be a detective and to magnify the good, really cherishing the goodness in all the details of our lives. It calls upon us to behold not only the blessings in our own lives but also to see the goodness of God as impartial and universal. Isn't it wonderful to delight and rejoice in detecting all the infinite good that the shepherding love of God is bestowing on us all (see *Science and Health*, [p. 578](#), cit. 12)!

There is nothing deeper, wider, nor higher than God's love. And there is nothing more majestic and glorious than the Love that is God, already and forever "fill[ing] all space" (*Science and Health*, [p. 520](#), cit. 23). To me that is what Thanksgiving is about; rejoicing in Love's infinite embrace of all creation in bountiful blessings!

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