

Harmony

July 24, 2024

We seem to be living in a discordant world, full of both big and little wars. From the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza to the married couple who can't agree on what color to paint the kitchen walls. But are things really any different than they have ever been? These readings are focused on discovering a sense of harmony based on spiritual reality, not human opinion.

Hymns

1. Hymn. 452

Brood o'er us with Thy shelt'ring wing, / 'Neath which our spirits blend
/ Like brother birds, that soar and sing, / And on the same branch bend. /
The arrow that doth wound the dove / Darts not from those who watch
and love. /

If thou the bending reed wouldst break / By thought or word unkind, /
Pray that his spirit you partake, / Who loved and healed mankind: / Seek
holy thoughts and heavenly strain, / That make men one in love remain. /

Learn, too, that wisdom's rod is given / For faith to kiss, and know; /
That greetings glorious from high heaven, / Whence joys supernal flow, /
Come from that Love, divinely near, / Which chastens pride and earth-
born fear, /

Through God, who gave that word of might / Which swelled creation's
lay: / "Let there be light, and there was light." / What chased the clouds
away? / 'Twas Love whose finger traced aloud / A bow of promise on
the cloud. /

Thou to whose power our hope we give, / Free us from human strife. /
Fed by Thy love divine we live, / For Love alone is Life; / And life most
sweet, as heart to heart / Speaks kindly when we meet and part.

2. Hymn. 524

REFRAIN / Like a river that runs to the ocean, / Like a ray reaching out
from the sun, / Like a branch and the tree, a drop and the sea, / I and my
Father are one. /

And may each of us claim it as truly / As Jesus, who came as God's son,
/ And may each of us know in the depths of our soul, / I and my Father
are one. /

One in beauty, one in truth, / One in the asking, one in the proof, / One
in time and one in space, / One in the goodness that flows from God's
grace. // REFRAIN / Though our fears may estrange and divide us, /
May we seek to dissolve them through love. / We are sister and brother,
each bound to the other, / One with our Father above. /

One in purpose, one in power, / One in the Spirit, blessing each hour, /
One in kindness, one in peace, / One in the Mind that makes all trouble
cease. // REFRAIN

3. Hymn. 553

Our desire to heed God's calling / Lifts us
to a new design, / Outlined by pure inspiration, / Rendered in Love's
graceful line. /

When our own plans seem to crumble / Incomplete or ill-defined, / Let
us turn to God's creation, / Always perfectly aligned. /

With the model right before us, / Perfect God and perfect man, / Let
God's wholeness reign within us, / Let Mind's will perfect our plan. /

Far beyond the bounds of matter, / Unrestrained by fear or time, / All our plans unfold together / In Soul's harmony and rhyme.

The Bible

1. Mal. 2:10

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

2. Ps. 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

3. Luke 15:1–3, 11–13 A, 17–32 (J.B. Philips)

² Now all the tax-collectors and “outsiders” were crowding around to hear what he had to say. The Pharisees and the scribes complained of this, remarking, “This man accepts sinners and even eats his meals with them.”

³⁻⁷ So Jesus spoke to them, using this parable:

Then he continued, “Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the property that will come to me.’ So he divided up his property between the two of them. Before very long, the younger son collected all his belongings and went off to a foreign land, where he squandered his wealth in the wildest extravagance.

Then he came to his senses and cried aloud, ‘Why, dozens of my father’s hired men have got more food than they can eat and here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go back to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have done wrong in the sight of Heaven and in your eyes. I

don't deserve to be called your son any more. Please take me on as one of your hired men.””

20-24 So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still some distance off, his father saw him and his heart went out to him, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. But his son said, ‘Father, I have done wrong in the sight of Heaven and in your eyes. I don’t deserve to be called your son any more ...’ ‘Hurry!’ called out his father to the servants, ‘fetch the best clothes and put them on him! Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and get that calf we’ve fattened and kill it, and we will have a feast and a celebration! For this is my son—I thought he was dead, and he’s alive again. I thought I had lost him, and he’s found!’ And they began to get the festivities going.

25-32 “But his elder son was out in the fields, and as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants across to him and enquired what was the meaning of it all. ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has killed the calf we fattened because he has got him home again safe and sound,’ was the reply. But he was furious and refused to go inside the house. So his father came outside and called him. Then he burst out, ‘Look, how many years have I slaved for you and never disobeyed a single order of yours, and yet you have never given me so much as a young goat, so that I could give my friends a dinner? But when that son of yours arrives, who has spent all your money on prostitutes, for him you kill the calf we’ve fattened!’ But the father replied, ‘My dear son, you have been with me all the time and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and show our joy. For this is your brother; I thought he was dead—and he’s alive. I thought he was lost—and he is found!’

4. I John 4:1, 4–8

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ...

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

5. Col. 3:8–11 now, 15 (New Living Translation)

But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,[a] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,[b] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

6. John 14:26 the, 27

... the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you,

my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Science and Health with key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy

1. SH 560:10–17

Heaven represents harmony, and divine Science interprets the Principle of heavenly harmony. The great miracle, to human sense, is divine Love, and the grand necessity of existence is to gain the true idea of what constitutes the kingdom of heaven in man. This goal is never reached while we hate our neighbor or entertain a false estimate of anyone whom God has appointed to voice His Word.

2. SH 587:25

HEAVEN. Harmony; the reign of Spirit; government by divine Principle; spirituality; bliss; the atmosphere of Soul.

3. SH 470:32

The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.

4. SH 390:7–9

It is our ignorance of God, the divine Principle, which produces apparent discord, and the right understanding of Him restores harmony.

5. SH 304:16

Harmony is produced by its Principle, is controlled by it and abides with it. Divine Principle is the Life of man. Man's happiness is not, therefore, at the disposal of physical sense. Truth is not contaminated by error. Harmony in man is as beautiful as in music, and discord is unnatural, unreal.

6. SH 253:9–14

I hope, dear reader, I am leading you into the understanding of your divine rights, your heaven-bestowed harmony, — that, as you read, you see there is no cause (outside of erring, mortal, material sense which is not power) able to make you sick or sinful; and I hope that you are conquering this false sense.

7. SH 241:31–3; 242:9

It is “easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,” than for sinful beliefs to enter the kingdom of heaven, eternal harmony. Through repentance, spiritual baptism, and regeneration, mortals put off their material beliefs and false individuality. ...

There is but one way to heaven, harmony, and Christ in divine Science shows us this way. It is to know no other reality — to have no other consciousness of life — than good, God and His reflection, and to rise superior to the so-called pain and pleasure of the senses.

8. SH 242:15

Self-love is more opaque than a solid body. In patient obedience to a patient God, let us labor to dissolve with the universal solvent of Love

the adamant of error, — self-will, self-justification, and self-love, — which wars against spirituality and is the law of sin and death.

9. SH viii:4

To develop the full might of this Science, the discords of corporeal sense must yield to the harmony of spiritual sense, even as the science of music corrects false tones and gives sweet concord to sound.

10. SH 76:22–26

The sinless joy, — the perfect harmony and immortality of Life, possessing unlimited divine beauty and goodness without a single bodily pleasure or pain, — constitutes the only veritable, indestructible man, whose being is spiritual.

11. SH 81:25–28

Though the inharmony resulting from material sense hides the harmony of Science, inharmony cannot destroy the divine Principle of Science.

12. SH 122:1–7

The evidence of the physical senses often reverses the real Science of being, and so creates a reign of discord, — assigning seeming power to sin, sickness, and death; but the great facts of Life, rightly understood, defeat this triad of errors, contradict their false witnesses, and reveal the kingdom of heaven, — the actual reign of harmony on earth.

13. SH 213:27

Mortal mind is the harp of many strings, discoursing either discord or harmony according as the hand, which sweeps over it, is human or divine.

14. SH 58:2–3 (to ,)

Unity of spirit gives new pinions to joy, ...

15. SH 598:23–30

One moment of divine consciousness, or the spiritual understanding of Life and Love, is a foretaste of eternity. This exalted view, obtained and retained when the Science of being is understood, would bridge over with life discerned spiritually the interval of death, and man would be in the full consciousness of his immortality and eternal harmony, where sin, sickness, and death are unknown.

16. SH 489:28–29

Outside the material sense of things, all is harmony.