CHAPTER VIII LIFE

The following are a few references from the textbook stating what Life is and what Life does—what our being is and does. (A few are combinations.)

What Life Is

27:10	Life is God (there are sixteen direct references
	to Life is God)
157:30	Life is continuous
246:27	Life is eternal
249:18	Life is the same yesterday, and today, and
	forever.
264:16	Life is Spirit (Life is Spirit occurs five or six
	times)*
288:24	Life is not subject to death (this rendering
	occurs several times)
289:32	Life is self-existent
290:1	Life is the everlasting I AM, the Being who was
	and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase.
312:20	Life is man's eternal Principle*
390:4	Life is self-sustained (this reference occurs
	several times)
487:3	Life is deathless
487:3	Life is the origin and ultimate of man*
	*A combination

What Life Does

122:26	Life	goes	on	unchanged
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243:26 Life has no partnership with death

306:7 Life demonstrates Life 339:2 Life destroys death

Words Mrs. Eddy Uses to Describe Life

ascension	fatherhood	multiplies	risen
aspiration	fathering	nowness	sacrifice
abundance	follow	open	temple
Being	followers	perpetual	timeless
being	grace	perseveres	way
bread	gratitude	repentance	wings
creator	habitual	resurrection	highway
coexistence	immortal		
coincidence	immortality		
character	individual	Opposites	limits
constructive	individuality	age	mortal
day	indivisible	blood	mortality
earth	indestructible	body	organic
essence	inspiration	crucifixion	physiology
eternal	is	death	temple
existence	laying down	grave	time
experience	the mortal	heredity	veil
exaltation	love		
Father	method		

The Living Demonstration of Divine Principle

Life is a living demonstration of the divine Principle. If Principle operates by itself and brings dynamics into being, we can see that the dynamic of Principle is Life. The inner operation of Principle is naturally Principle, but every operation is bringing out something new, and this newness is Life. Thus when Principle operates we have Life and we can't have Life without relying on the divine Principle, which is Mind, Spirit, Soul in one operation.

In order to have eternal life we must first determine what kind of life we mean. Mortal life is not eternal, nor are material, physical, or organic life, eternal. They are a mistaken sense of life, and mistakes cannot be eternalized.

Eternal Life is constituted of Mind, Spirit, Soul, and Principle. Life says, "Only that is Life that is created by Mind, not by 'parents.'" Only Life that is Mind is Life; only Life that is the creation of the divine Mind is Life. Likewise, only Life that is Spirit, and not matter, is Life, for material life cannot be made eternal. The Life that is spiritual is already eternal; we don't have to make it eternal. Only Life that is Soul is Life. Life that is Soul is not in the body, just as the principle of arithmetic is not in the numbers. This Life that is not in the body is already immortal.

Being is "the kingdom of God...within you" as "incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love." The fact is, there is nothing to be created. $2 \times 2 = 4$ never had to be created. It was

never born, so it never ends. To gain immortality we must gain a scientific eternal consciousness of creation which entails seeing that there is no creator and no creation. *There is only revelation*.

The Facts Have Always Been the Facts

Divine Science reveals, and this is the only "creation." The facts were always the facts; Science reveals them. This constitutes the only "creation" there is, since there is *per se* no creator and no creation, as explained in the chapter "Creation" in Science and Health. But we can continually see more of that which already is.

Principle is always telling us that this Life operates now as eternal Life. We can't demonstrate eternal Life, we can only see that Life is eternal, is beingness. Life always has been because Life is Mind, Spirit, Soul, operated by Principle.

Every question can be answered through an understanding of the synonymous terms, just as we have done here with Life. You first ask, "What is Life?" The answer, "Life is Mind," leads to the next question, "What is Mind?" You ponder and meditate on what Mind is, and you see that everything Mind is, Life is. Again, you ask "What is Life?" "Life is Spirit." Well, "What is Spirit?" You ruminate on the meaning of Spirit, going over all the ideas characterizing Spirit, and you see that what Spirit is, Life is. You go through the same process with Soul. "What is Soul?" You reflect on Soul, on all the ideas characterizing Soul, and you see that what Soul is, Life is. And the same with Principle. This is the way to learn what you already are.

Life IS

What is Life eternal? What Mind, Spirit, Soul, as our Principle, has presented, is in a state of *isness*, and that's Life. When you give to the preceding synonymous terms the value of *isness*, you have Life. Life says, "Look at those four synonyms you have been building up. Look at Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, and see that they *are*, *that they exist*." Life is expressed as existence, as isness. Therefore we must see that what we have been building up is eternal. *It doesn't have a beginning or an end*. It is therefore self-sustaining.

Why is Life self-sustaining? Because Life is Mind, which is always creating its own likeness in ideas. These ideas are evolved in Spirit, made definite and given identity in Soul, and wedded into one Principle as the fourth step. Then they become self-sustaining and self-maintaining in Life. Life is self-providing; Life is what it is, meaning it is Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle.

Life is. And the only thing that is, is Mind, Spirit, Soul, ("the kingdom of God within [us],") which form our Principle from which we work. Life is saying to Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, "You are, and you always are. You have never had a beginning; you will never have an ending. You are eternal."

Each Synonymous Term Adds to the One Before It

Every further synonymous term we study turns back to the ones we have already taken and adds something new to those previous ones. Here, in the fifth stage, we get the newness of Life. We are lifted out of the mortal; we live above the mortal. We are in an exalted state, a state of ascension. As we lay down the mortal sense of life we experience this exaltation. We gain a sense of living above mortal life, above mortal strife, above the physical. The mortal sense of life doesn't touch us anymore. The mortal sense of life, we learn, isn't life at all; it is hypnotic suggestion. It is only a misconception, the counterfeit of Life. Mortal life now or in a hundred years isn't life at all. Knowing this lifts us above the earth-bound concept of a human mortal life.

We willingly lay down the mortal concept of life if we understand and if we are in earnest. Usually though, we get in our own way by trying to eternalize the *human* sense of life, because we don't really want to leave this false sense of Life. When we have a *divine* sense of Life, and see that Life is Mind, Life is Spirit, Life is Soul, Life is Principle, we have no fear of death. We know then that the false sense of Life we experience here on earth is not Life, but is a counterfeit of Life. It is a false concept of Life.

Life asks us to drop the false concept of Life, to lay down the mortal sense of Life, which is illusion, hypnotic suggestion only. Jesus dropped the false concept of Life. That was his big contribution to our civilization. He showed that material life is not Life. He showed that Life is something very different from the human sense of life, the corporeal, the eighty to ninety year sense of life. He showed there was something much greater. The only thing that can live and that does live is Principle—the Principle that I am—operating. That is the only Life there is. Love

wants us to drop the false sense of Life; and Love will force us, eventually, to drop the false sense of Life, just as it forced, evolved, mankind out of the stone age, and out of the cave man experience.

Living By Grace

Today we have evolved to see that we live by grace. We are seeing that the divine Principle always brings forth something new without our having to work for it. This is Life and this is what is meant by the law of mutation. It means there is no cause in the past that leads to an effect in the now, because of the simple fact that *being is, therefore everything we ever need is ever-present*. Being is, and its isness has no opposite. There is no place where anything that could bless could be lacking. Principle operates, and projects, as Life, its new ideas into being. This is the nature of Mind, Spirit, and Soul when they have been wedded into one Principle of all being—Principle governs, takes over as a self-operating Principle, and begins to give. It says, "I AM; I can't be anything but what I am; therefore I give ceaselessly." This is God's aspect as Life.

Because of this we have *infinite progression* in Life. This can be compared to a mathematical calculation where we move from one process, one calculation, to the next calculation, from addition to subtraction, and from subtraction to division, and then on to multiplication, in solving a mathematical problem. It is the idea that moves itself to another idea. Mrs. Eddy calls this "*infinite progression*," and speaks of it as "concrete being."

"Now" and "Here" Are Time and Space Concepts

Infinite progression does not imply time and space, however. It does not mean progressing from "now" to "then" or from "here" to "there." Nowness and hereness become obsolete in Christian Science. Life is not "now," Life is not "here." "Now" is a time concept; "here" is a space concept. "Now" and "here" are concepts belonging to the mortal frame of reference. We must begin to think factually. For example, the fact 2 plus 2 equals 4 isn't happening in time. It just is. Isness has nothing to do with time. It is just factual. At the same time that we have 2 + 2 = 4 going on, we also have $5 \times 5 = 25$ going on as well as all the infinite calculations in mathematics.

If we saw Life as *factuality*, as *isness*, we would never wonder or ask, "What went on before birth?" We would see it is a wrong question. *It is like asking*, "What went on before 2 x 2 was 4?" The material mortal human system of reference, built up by mortal mind, the counterfeit of immortal Mind, is a false system of reference which must be supplanted by the true spiritual frame of reference. Mrs. Eddy used terms like "here," "now," "ever-presence," in order to make the true "I" understood, and to build a bridge to isness, to Life as isness, to the understanding that in reality we *now are* "incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love."

The divine Principle is constantly its own isness, its own being, and this aspect of God we call Life. When we realize that Life is isness we won't ask such questions as, "When was he born?" anymore than we would ask, "When was $2 \times 2 = 4$ born?"

Know Daily That You Are Spiritually-minded

In the isness of Life we have *exaltation*. We rise above the human plane of thinking by seeing that Life is Mind, Spirit, Soul as one Principle from which all blessings flow. As we do this, the ideas come and flow freely. This is the *grace* of Life, the *mutation* of Life. This mutation can only come because we have made Mind, Spirit, Soul our basis and have wedded them into one absolute and indivisible Principle. In doing this we have readied ourselves for a mutation.

"Life," Mrs. Eddy says, "is the spontaneity of Love." Life comes as the law of spontaneity, as the newness of life. But we can only have this newness and this spontaneity by using the method of Life, the way of Life—by going to the Principle—which we are in reality, and which is Mind, Spirit, and Soul as one operation.

Each One reflects Every Quality of God

Because we are undivided from Principle and fully reflect all that Principle is, each of us has all individuality. This is brought out through the spiritual reflection of Spirit. Each one of us, as the isness of Life, expresses all individuality as our individuality.

The human concept of individuality, by contrast, is very limited. In the world we say, "She's an artist," or "He's an engineer." As an artist, she can paint. As an

engineer, he can build a bridge. The world believes in a division of qualities. But in *Science, in true individuality, there is no division of qualities*. Each one reflects every quality and attribute of God. This is true individuality, and it is indestructible in the same way that $2 \times 2 = 4$ is indestructible.

Mrs. Eddy states, "Spirit diversifies, classifies, and individualizes all...." What does it mean? Spirit is only the ability to do this task. It is then up to Soul to actually diversify; it is up to Principle to classify; and it is up to Life to individualize (and we have just explained what individuality in Life means).

To really understand we have to start at the beginning. First, we have the creator in Mind. Second, Spirit has the ability to order the whole realm of the ideas of Mind. Third, Spirit orders them through the diversification of Soul. Soul diversifies and genderizes them, showing each to be the perfect image and likeness of God, of the whole of God. Fourth, Spirit classifies them through the classification of Principle, and fifth, it individualizes them in Life where we see that each has all individualities at the same time, in isness, just as in mathematics all possible calculations exist at the same time everywhere. The One, God (Life) has to be infinite in individuality, and infinite in expression as infinite individualities. Then, as we shall see in the following chapters, in the sixth step, Truth tells us every individuality has its form, and finally Love says that form is perfect, so that we have the seven synonyms operating as one. This grand truth we love and are grateful for.

Why We Should Be Grateful For Life, Truth and Love

What does Mrs. Eddy mean when she says, "If we are ungrateful for Life, Truth, and Love, and yet return thanks to God for all blessings, we are insincere . . . " She means that if we are returning thanks for all blessings we are being grateful for the effects and not for the cause. "If we are ungrateful for Life," meaning for the fact that Life is, and that it is isness, we should stop and ponder what it would be like without Life? Without Life there would be no isness, there would be no being, no continuity, no existence, no Life that is the spontaneity of Love, no newness, no permanency, no self-sustaining, self-maintaining individuality, no exaltation above the mortal sense of things; no coexistence with God. *Life stands for the fact that Mind is, Spirit is, Soul is, Principle is*.

Why should we be grateful for Truth? Because Truth means scientific spiritual divine consciousness. It stands for the whole, for health in everything and in every condition. *Truth stands for the true form of everything*, the divine infinite calculus, the ideal, the standard. It is the Christ, Truth, that we love and are grateful for.

Why should we be grateful for Love? *Because Love is salvation*; Love is totality, all-embracing, plan, design, purpose, perfection.

This is why Mrs. Eddy could say, "If we are ungrateful for Life, Truth, and Love, and yet return thanks for all blessings, we are insincere." It is what Life, Truth, and Love *intrinsically are* that we are grateful for.

Principle — Life

The moment we see our *oneness with Principle*, Principle begins to operate as ourself, and to demonstrate itself. What is it that Principle demonstrates? Principle demonstrates Life, then Truth, then Love. It is that which we are looking forward to demonstrating—a better sense of Life, a better sense of health, in Truth, and a better sense of fulfillment and accomplishment, in Love.

We cannot demonstrate Life until we have an understanding of the nature of Principle as our true Mind, Spirit, and Soul. If we don't have a proper grasp of Mind, Spirit, and Soul as our true being, we will not be demonstrating Life. Instead we will be trying to demonstrate, as Life, an experience, a being, an existence, that is looking out for mortal mind's business. That could only give us a material existence, a limited corporeal sense of existence. Without a proper comprehension of Mind, Spirit, and Soul we could never demonstrate Life as what Life is.

Life is free from mortal mind, free from matter, free from body. Many have been healed by seeing that "perfection is the order of celestial being, which demonstrates Life in Christ, Life's spiritual ideal."

The constant culturing of a better sense of Mind, Spirit, Soul, taken as our Principle (as what we are in reality), our fundamental basis from which we operate, begins to demonstrate Principle's ideas.

Principle's ideas are the ever newness of Life. Principle never repeats itself, because it is infinite, and because

it is infinite there is no routine; every moment, every incident, every experience, must be always new.

We see that Life is a Life-Principle. It is not just "something." It is being. There is a Life-Principle, for Life flows out of Principle. We cannot demonstrate Life without having a good sense of the creative Principle—Mind, Spirit, Soul.

What is Life all about? Is Life all about a better mentality. No, that's mortal mind—a counterfeit of Mind. Is Life all about a better situation? No. That is a counterfeit of Spirit. Is Life all about having a better, or stronger, healthier body? No. That would be a counterfeit of Soul. Life is that which says, "Only that which Principle constantly brings forth is actually being, is actually beingness." This is symbolized in the Bible as the Father, the Person of God or Principle. Father is the Person of God in its office as Life, as that which perpetually brings forth newness, that which is supporting and maintaining all that is created through Mind.

Life is a Self-Sustaining Circle

Mary Baker Eddy characterizes Life as self-sustaining. We don't sustain life through food, drink and sleep; we only sustain the body (the myth) with food, drink, and sleep. Sustaining Life is something quite different from sustaining the myth called body.

How is Life self-sustaining? What is the inner nature of Life that enables it to be self-sustaining? On what grounds can we experience Life as self-sustaining? What kind of consciousness can experience Life as self-sustaining?

Only a consciousness that is familiar with and knows the creative Principle, Mind, Spirit, Soul, can experience Life as self-sustaining. We can see where the self-sustaining Life comes from, and the spiritual import of it grows on us when we are aware of the creative Principle—Mind, Spirit, Soul—and therefore go back to the ideas of Mind. With the ideas of Mind we have the newness. We see there that Mind always brings forth new ideas. Mind creates ideas, and we begin to see the newness of Life when we go back to Mind. We see that all newness of Life starts there. Mind knows all; Mind knows that which we, as yet, might not know we know, but Mind does know it.

Because Mind knows all ideas, and because Mind wants to manifest itself, it has that drive to express and disclose itself. To this urge of Mind to manifest itself, Life says, "Yes, go on, go on, manifest yourself. You are it. You are the only beingness there is." These new ideas come to us as inspiration, as exalted thoughts, as God's thoughts coming to man; but it is not just because we say Life is self-sustaining; it is because we understand that Life is a circle of Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle expressing itself as Life; and this Life is Mind; Mind is the whole basis of the universe.

We Never Leave Any Synonymous Term Behind

We never leave any synonymous term behind. With every new synonymous term we go forward, but we never leave any synonymous term behind. If we didn't go back to Mind when we say Life is self-sustaining and ceaselessly creates anew, where would the newness come from? The only thing that can be new is ideas, and ideas come from Mind. Ideas are the only elements.

We see that self-sustaining Life is endlessly bringing forth new ideas of Mind. Because Life rests on Spirit, we see Life forever brings forth the new birth. Life constantly renews the true substance of being, so we get the newness of substance. In Soul we see that the Life that continuously brings forth something new rests on Soul. Soul is always bringing forth something clearer, always bringing forth more *definite* new ideas, so we get a sense of the newness of Soul.

All this activity is going on on the basis that Principle operates by itself, through its categories. Principle goes along its categories and says, "Yes, I am the Word. I establish myself. I am the Christ. My consciousness goes along the categories of the Christ." Principle can't help but express itself; it can't be kept back. Thus we get the boundless sense of Life as Christianity where we see Life demolishes everything that stands in its way. Life is an irresistible force that can't be stopped.

We only really know Life when we know the *scientific truth* of it, and to do that we must go back to Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth and Love.

What is a scientific truth, compared with a truth? The statement that Life is self-sustained and ever new is a truth. But the scientific truth or fact is the statement that Life is self-sustaining and ever new, on the basis that Life builds on Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle. That's the big frame of reference within which Life operates. When statements about Life are based on that ground, they become scien-

tific statements, scientific truths. Then they have power, and they work.

Life is Self-Creating

Life is self-creating and self existent; Life preserves itself, conserves itself. What does this mean? In Soul we took up Soul's infinite ability to contain. Soul as Life says, "I identify it and *keep it new*, see that it is preserved, sustained, maintained." We get the sense of Life having that inner ability, through the infinite impulsion of divine Principle's operation, to see to it that that which is, is constantly renewed and maintained.

Mutation

Another important idea characterizing Life, which we touched on earlier, is mutation. Life brings forth mutation. Studying the seven synonyms for God in the Word order, we find that after Principle there is a terrific break. With Life something quite different comes in—mutation, which according to Webster means, "a suddenly produced variation." In the realm of nature we have spontaneously new forms such as a caterpillar changing into a butterfly, but these are not called mutations, because they are part of the natural life cycle. They are a predictable effect, caused by the normal development of the insect. A mutation is the coming into being of a new form not on the basis of the law of cause and effect.

An effect is also something new, of course, but only in the sense that the butterfly is something new. If you reason along the line of causality in Mind where you see that every cause brings an effect—that there is no effect without a cause—that's the law of causality. That is why we say that on the level of Christian Science if we have fearful thoughts (cause) we may become sick (effect). We can correct the effect by changing the cause, by knowing that in divine Mind there is no fear because Mind is fulfilled and has no fear. That brings about a correction, and another effect: we get well again. That is the law of cause and effect.

But a higher law than the law of cause and effect is the law of mutation. The law of mutation says something new comes into being without the process of causality. The New Testament calls this "grace"—the gift of grace. Paul was fighting the old law of causality laid down in the Old Testament which said if you have been bad you have to suffer until your balance sheet is in order again. The New Testament law was different. The law of Christ is not that we earn our salvation through obedience to "the law" but that, as *St. Paul insisted, we live by grace, we live by faith*.

We live by what? We live by the fact of seeing that the divine Principle always brings forth something new without our having to "earn" it or merit it. This is grace. In speaking of the heavenly conviction that came to her, Mrs. Eddy says it was the "gift of grace given unto me by the effectual working of His power." This is the law of mutation. It means there is no cause in the past that leads to an effect in the now. The law of causation of Life says: "Because being is, everything we ever need or

could ever need is ever present." It's a gift. We don't have to work for a gift.

What You Are as Life, God — Rending the Veil of Mortality

Life is of this nature. Principle unceasingly operates and projects, as Life, its new ideas into being. Principle doesn't ask, "What have you been doing lately? What happened before?" It just says, "I AM, and I can't be anything else but what I AM, and therefore I give, give, without asking a return or driving a bargain."

The Old Testament has a covenant-making, bargaining God who says, in effect, "I, God, give you so much, and in return you are to give me back this and this," but the New Testament has a God of grace. Jesus, after the whole development of the Old Testament, called God "Father." Father supports the family; he gives and gives, and works to support the family.

This is the nature of Mind, Spirit, and Soul the moment it touches the point where we see it as the Principle that I am. Once we realize it is a Principle, we no longer have to climb up the ladder to see what is right. We have now identified the whole nature of Mind, Spirit, and Soul with Principle. Principle says, "Now I will take over. I am a self-operative Principle and therefore I give Life. I give." That's Life: "I give."

This is what we have here, namely, that self-sustaining, self-supporting, self-conserving, forever providing Life. What is the nature of this provision? We might say that the textbook as a whole is providing that instruction

that will cause our evolvement and development out of mortality into pure spiritual being. No greater provision could be made than the rending of the veil of mortality, the counterfeit of immortal being.

God is the Life of Man "There Shall be Time No Longer"

Mrs. Eddy often brings out the fact that Life is right here and now, ever-present. Life isn't something that is in the future. We must see that Life has nothing to do with a *time* concept, not even an eternal time concept. We are not talking about a stretch of being that goes on from eternity to eternity. That is a human concept of life, which hinders us from seeing the true scientific concept of Life.

Life is isness. What is the life of $2 \times 2 = 4$? Is it very long? Is it eternal? Would we think of the isness of $2 \times 2 = 4$ in the sense of a long time? No.

We must culture our concept of Life in order to free ourselves of a time concept or sense of Life. A time sense of Life prevents us from seeing that Life is isness, nowness. Life is progression. As we noted, it is like a mathematical calculation when we move from one calculation, from one process to the next, from addition to subtraction, to multiplication in solving a problem. It is the idea that moves itself to another idea. This is Life as progression. This is "infinite progression as concrete being"; and this is why we can say mutation is not movement in space or time, and yet it is still something that happens, like progression.

As we come into Life, Truth, and Love we get into more and more difficulty with our human conceptions and our world-view. We have to use the limited symbolism of our everyday world to express that which is not of this world.

We can see that if there is no movement there is stagnation. In Life there is no stagnation so there must be movement. Therefore we must see that movement can be something that is without the time concept. The forms change. The newness of Life is forever something new. Therefore there must be a motivating force at work without in any way requiring a time sense.

Everything Happens at the Same "Time"

In the book, *Life After Life*, by Dr. Raymond Moody wrote that persons who had passed on experienced everything happening at the same moment regardless of which time concept it had happened in—their whole life just happened in one moment without any time lag. This naturally is true. We have to see this. Remember our example from arithmetic? All the facts of mathematics are happening at once. Does this mean they are happening in time? No. This is the point. Everything that is, is happening "at the same time," but we can't say it happens at the same moment because moment is again our human concept, which we bring into it.

Our sense of Life must free itself from the belief of a yesterday, a today, and a forever; and of a now and here.

These are all concepts belonging to the human frame

of reference, which Mrs. Eddy takes in, in order to explain that Life is—that Life has to do with isness, and not with a "now" and a "here." We have to get rid of a three-dimensional concept, and even a four-dimensional concept, the time-space continuum.

We Must See Life As Isness

The book by Dr. Moody, *Life After Life*, has prompted many inquiries concerning life after death. People are wondering if there is some kind of scientific proof of life after death, and they wonder if in this after-life the time-space-continuum just falls to pieces. The time-space concept is a man-made concept that only applies to our human system of reference. We have to think in factualities and no longer in a time-space-continuum.

Little by little the question of the after-life is being solved, but the world in general has not yet started to investigate life *before* birth. On this subject the world is very much in the dark because it is asking the wrong question, just as it asked the wrong question about life after death. People believed that life includes a time concept, so they asked, "Does the time concept go on in the future?" Now they ask, "Has the time concept gone on in the past?" Both are wrong questions. We must see Life as isness, as factuality, then we wouldn't ask, "What went on before birth?" and "What happens after we die?" Neither would we ask, "Where were we before birth?" or, "Where are we after death?" These are wrong questions. They have nothing to do with Life.

A New System of Reference

We are slaves to a certain material limited system, or frame, of reference. We only testify or see according to our inborn material system of reference, not realizing there are many other systems of reference.

There is a time as well as a space concept involved in the question: "Where are we?" and neither time or space are absolute, as Einstein saw. As a child, he asked himself, "What would the world look like if I was sitting on a ray of light?" Thinking about this question he came to realize that if he shifted his frame of reference in that way suddenly there would be no more time there (but the implications of his questioning turned out to be the atomic bomb).

People ask, "Where is Jesus? Where has he gone?" Jesus said: "I am with you always." He is here, but we don't see him because he has another system of reference, an absolutely different system of reference. This is what Christian Science wants to introduce, namely, a whole new system of reference, a divine, Christ-system of reference. We must exchange an old material system of reference for a divine spiritual system of reference. This is what Jesus wanted us to see.

We actually live in a divine system of reference instead of a human system of reference which has been built up by mortal mind matter-body beliefs. This mortal mind matter-body belief is the principal belief we entertain, and it brings forth sin, sickness, frustration, and death. This is the system of reference in which we were born, and which

Mary Baker Eddy saw was the "first death." Everyone believes in this false system of reference.

Mrs. Eddy Built a Bridge to Isness

It is interesting to remember that when people learned to read and write, the psychic ability to read thought—which was possessed by the ancients—was lost. We no longer needed that ability.

What would being be like if the time concept were taken away, even the time concept of eternal, and of everpresent? Ever-present is a space concept, and eternal is a time concept. Mrs. Eddy, as we said, needed these terms in order to make herself understood and to build a bridge to isness. Life is an isness, and if we understood this, it would be the solution for birth, the first death.

Instead of asking, "Where were we before?" we should realize that where and when are time-space concepts. An isness concept has to do with isness; and isness reveals that the divine Principle is, and is being. It is constantly, perpetually, its own isness. We would never ask, "When was $2 \times 2 = 4$ born?" or "What was before $2 \times 2 = 4$?" Scientific symbolisms are better than biblical symbolisms. Science says there is isness; there is factuality.

No Creator, No Creation — Human Birth is the First Death

We ask these material questions because we still labor under the mystical beliefs of a creator that creates a creation. We still believe in a creator creating a creation, so we ask which was first, the hen or the egg.

Mrs. Eddy answers that whole question differently. She does, of course, speak a lot about creator and creation as a concession to the total ignorance of the age. Imagine what the response would have been if she had bluntly (but honestly) stated that there is no creator and no creation. Her readers were steeped in a religious sense, and Mrs. Eddy had to overform that religious sense with the typical mystical teaching that people were accustomed to: that God is good, is a creator, creates only good, etc. But to those with eyes to see, Mrs. Eddy teaches that there is no creator and no creation, no human birth, which she taught was the first death. She says "...divine Science ushered Jesus into human presence...." It was divine Science which created Jesus, not a "God." It was not a creator, but a Science. And a science, whether it is the science of mathematics or any other science, says what is; it says what the facts are. It may look like somebody created this or that science, and brought these facts into being, but the facts were always the facts. Facts are facts. They are not created. 2 + 2 = 4was never created. It is a fact, and is of the nature of isness.

In Being the Facts Are

We have to drop that whole business of a creator and a creation, of God creating man; that whole business of beginning with a creator and ending with a creation. In being we can't create anything. The facts are. They are all that we can see. *The only thing we can see is more about that which is.* That which is, is Science, and in the measure that we are Science, we are. *Antiquated* and *passé*

is that old religious belief of: God is our creator! and how wonderful His name!

We have noted that Mary Baker Eddy wrote her textbook in a four-fold calculus. The moment we go beyond the Word, Christ, Christianity, and reach the fourth side of the holy city, Science, we begin to see that all there is, is the scientific fact. Scientific fact, as we have seen, has no past, no present, no future, no space, no time, no whereabouts, and therefore *these facts exist*.

"Was not this a revelation instead of a creation?" Mrs. Eddy asks. She takes the whole record of creation and puts it right back into Science. Science reveals, she says. Is not revelation what humanly we call a creation? Most Christian Scientists carry around beliefs in mysticism, in magic—thinking about a God who is a creator and has a creation, which is all a mystical picture. It has nothing to do with ideas. Naturally we have to make concessions to these age-old beliefs in order to bring them to the surface and slowly overform them to a sense of isness that is Life.

What we want to see, concerning the synonym Life, is not so much that Life is eternal, but rather that being *is. Being is isness. That's Life.* And "Life, spiritually understood," Mrs. Eddy said, "is heaven here." The synonymous term, Life, could be called *isness*. Isness has nothing to do with time and space.

To Know God is Life Eternal

Mrs. Eddy defines Life as: "to know God." To know God is Life eternal. This is not an idea of Life but is a translated quality, a form translated to the human. Mrs.

Eddy is saying that if we lift up our thought to the point of God or Being, then we have Life. We have Life when we lift thought through Mind, through Spirit, through Soul, to the Principle of being; that is Life. Therefore going the way of Mind, Spirit, Soul, to be identified with Principle—Mind, Spirit, Soul, wedded into one system as Principle—is the way of Life, and means to know God. To know God we must know Mind, we must know Spirit, we must know Soul, we must know Principle. They are all aspects of Life, they constitute Life. What they are, Life is. To know them is the way of Life, the method of Life, the exaltation of Life.

Exaltation

Life exalts. What does the exaltation of Life mean? What is exaltation? How does Life exalt? Is it a mystical happening?

Exalting means to take a higher sense than the human sense. Instead of going along with one's mortal mind thoughts, we start out with Mind and Mind's ideas. That already is exalting. Instead of thinking about the material universe we begin to think about Spirit—that Spirit unfolds, and Spirit brings forth new ideas—and thus we exalt our consciousness above the material level to the spiritual.

Then we go to Soul, and instead of having a sense that everything is indefinite, and must be testified to materially, we discover that spiritual sense testifies more clearly, and we exalt our testimony above the physical sense testimony, to the spiritual testimony. Exaltation takes place in Mind, in Spirit, and in Soul. Then, in Principle, we lift the idea into its Principle. Then it is there, and that is Life; that's the way of Life; that's the exaltation of Life. Only as we see that our Principle is Mind, Spirit and Soul, wedded as one, do we have the exaltation of Life.

We shouldn't so much think of Life as that which comes after Principle and ask, "What is the next step to take on the ladder?" It is actually always a higher sense of Mind, a higher sense of Spirit, a higher sense of Soul, and a higher sense of Principle that constitutes Life. This is what must be seen. This is why Mary Baker Eddy says, "To understand God, to know God, is eternal life." To know the nature of God, to know the nature of Mind, Spirit, Soul as the Principle of our being, is Life, is exaltation.

What Knowing God Means

Knowing God means to exalt one's thought from the mortal mind system of reference to the divine system of reference. It means to exalt thought above human thinking to the ideational conceptions, above the material senses to see the beauty of the spiritual realm, above the indefiniteness of physical sense testimony to that wonderful clear-cut sense of spiritual touch and testimony. *This is really our Principle on which we base ourselves*. Then we have exalted ourselves. That is Life. Then the ideas come and flow from their source and back to their source.

In the learning stage the source may seem to be Science and Health, our textbook. But gradually as the con-

tents of the book are assimilated and understood spiritually, we find the kingdom of heaven within. Our true being has unfolded, developed, evolved from the Word, from the teachings of the textbook, as step by step we have laid off the mortal way of looking at things. A mutation can then take place. Preparing for a mutation may seem a struggle, and often a fierce one, but to gain a little each day and not yield to discouragement is doing much. Mortals, Mrs. Eddy said, grow into immortals as babes grow into adults.

As understanding develops, the ideas flow in and we fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven where we experience the spontaneity of Life. Then the gift of grace comes to us. Then the mutation sets in, because we have prepared the ground for a mutation to set in.

This is Life. Life comes as the law of spontaneity, as the newness of Life, and it is Life that says what is going to happen. It is not people's prerogative to say what is going to happen. It is not people who decide to climb one rung higher on the ladder. It is the divine idea. It is the greater ruling the lesser, and as it rules, Life comes to humanity, to all; and somewhere there is a transparent consciousness through which the light can shine, and then that consciousness can spell it out.

We Must Prepare Ourselves

The idea finds the Scientist, the idea finds the philosopher, but it never comes to a person who is not prepared, who has not prepared the sounding board well enough to be able to be used as a transparency. Inspira-

tion, intuition, exaltation, do not come to an unprepared thought.

To know God is Life eternal, so prepare. We must prepare our thought to receive the revelation. We do not arrive at a higher meaning, but as we prepare our thought, revelation comes to us. This emphasizes *the importance of exercising our fundamentals*, so that we constantly see the system more clearly. Then Life precipitates itself on us and rearranges everything so that the light breaks through.

But it comes only as we do our part in seeking, searching, striving. "The human self must be evangelized," says Mrs. Eddy. What Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love is, *must be revealed through the human character*. Our character must be in accord with the goodness of God's character, and to this end even the gold of human character will be melted and purified as we are compelled to pattern our lives in conformity with the divine teachings of Science and Health.

Revelation can only come to prepared thought, to scientific consciousness, so we must culture a love for the fundamentals, and take pleasure in *going over the whole ground again and again*, drilling ourselves in the simple categories, "...in the plainer manual of [our] spiritual armament."

Great musicians practice their scales constantly. Just so, you have to take what you know about God, and apply those infinite ideas of reality systematically to the myriad beliefs of mortal mind. You have to destroy the specific error with the specific truth about it. As we do this, suddenly something breaks in from above mortal consciousness and a new aspect appears; or a completely new vista opens up.

Physical scientists are seeing that every new innovation unfolds through seven stages. The world today sees—in its own way and terms—that there is a line of creative order that exactly parallels the seven days of creation. They see this at the point of Life, and they call it the eureka stage, where the idea comes in and they exclaim, "I got it!" This eureka point comes at the fifth stage, the stage of Life.

At the fifth stage we understand how the Principle works, and in rapture we exclaim, "I have found it!"

To Love God Means Life

In her statement of the third degree (S&H 116), the fifth term Mrs. Eddy gives us is love. John Doorly explained this term, love, as meaning the quality love that leads us to lay down the mortal concept. This term, love, used this way, is not an idea of Life but a translated quality. It is how Life comes to the human, and demands of us a certain attitude towards Life, namely, the laying down of the mortal concept.

Here "love" means willingness to give up the false sense of Life, willingness to give up mortal mind, matter, sense testimony as our basis of belief, and as our theory. We must exchange mortal mind, matter, material sense testimony, for the divine Mind consciousness. We must exchange the ideas of Spirit for the testimony of spiritual sense. We must be willing to give up human theories, dogmas, precepts, ceremonies, and accept the divine ruling of Principle. *This is love*.

Jesus said, "Those who love me will lay down their life for me," that is, they will keep their thoughts and actions in conformity with divine Principle; they will renounce all that constitutes the mortal ego, the belief in a mind and life of their own.

The birds, on the *fifth day of Creation*, leave the earth behind; they soar above it. In the freedom of their flight is a sense of exaltation.

Multiplication

It is a paradox of Life that as Life divides us from the mortal concept, from all we held dear and thought essential, our sense of wholeness and well-being multiplies.

Why is multiplication an idea characterizing Life? It is because, as we have seen, Life doesn't depend upon the law of cause and effect. Principle is the Principle of Life, and Principle is ever-operative, giving us the fullness of Life, which cannot help but pour out ceaselessly, uninterruptedly, without any cause. The outflow from Mind cannot be impeded, or checked in any way.

We get the sense of multiplication when we realize that Life is unlimited. Also characterizing Life we have such related ideas as the fullness of Life, the abundance of Life, the supply of Life, the newness of Life, the spontaneity, grace, and mercy of Life.

Anything that clearly indicates a source, a well of Life, anything that pours out without any cause, gives us the sense of multiplication. The moment you have a cause,

you have a cause for an effect—one cause for one effect. However, in the fifth stage—where we have just the well of Life, and we don't ask where it comes from, what is the cause of it—the bounty just pours out. That's Life!

What does all this mean in the human sense of things? It means that we are a well of Life. If we are Life and the idea of Life, then we are the well of Life, because "the kingdom of God is within [us]" and we are incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. We must not make the mistake of thinking Life is the well of Life and we are the recipient. That's not Life. That would just be old theology, the begging sense of life. Receiving is not Life. We only have the fullness of Life when we are Life, when we are a well of Life and we pour out Life, when we give.

How Can We Give?

How can we give? How can I give? As Life, I can give, pour out, project to the world the ideas of Mind instead of the illusions and false beliefs of mortal mind. I can project from my consciousness the infinite substance of Life, the infinite unfoldment and order of Life, instead of projecting disorder, confusion, dualism, retrogression, and materiality. I can project all that Soul means and is, all that Principle means and is.

I am the well of Life. Principle and idea have been shown as being one, as coexistent. In Life we can't have a Life that is the well of Life on one hand, and me as a poor beggar on the other hand trying to get something from that well of Life. I reach Life when I see that I am the well

of Life. It is the true "I" that is the well of Life.

In order to have fullness we must pour out fullness. We can now see that we never need someone else to give us something. We, each, are the well of Life. We can give without measure. That is Life. It makes us strong and vital because we feel we have everything within and can pour it out without measure.

Can anything stop us from giving out—from projecting ideas of Mind—instead of the illusions of mortal mind? Can anyone stop us from projecting good as the only ideas, instead of projecting the evil of disorder and animality? Can anyone or anything prevent us projecting from our consciousness ideas of Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love?

No. Nothing can stop us from projecting to the world, impartially, Life's uninterrupted flow of divine ideas that bless equally one and all. This is supply and abundance. The rain and the sun fall on all alike. We can do the same because it is consciousness and ideas we are working with. When our wealth consists of ideas, we can project and give without limit.

Multiplication means seeing ourselves as the fullness of Life. We are the fullness of Mind, of Spirit, of Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, and the more we experience this fullness of Life the more we have multiplication, and the more we have to give.

The Way of Life

To go out from the fullness; to go out from the superabundance of Mind, Spirit and Soul is the way of the method of Life. In Life we have the concept, *method*. What

does method mean? The *method* of Life is to know God—"To know God is Life eternal." To know God, to go the way of Life, to have the method, is to start with Mind, Spirit, Soul as our Principle. The method of Life is to identify everything with Principle. "Way" is the biblical term for the more scientific term, method, but Mrs. Eddy uses both "the way of Life" and "the method of Life."

Method means the way to do something. The way to do it is the method. If Life is the method, and Life says to start from the fullness, to begin with the superabundance of Mind, Spirit, Soul, then *that is the method*. We have Life if we always see everything in its fullness.

The method of Life is to see everything in its superabundance, in its fullness and perfection, and to see it as projecting, out of ourselves, the true sense of everything—the true sense of Mind—the true sense of Spirit, the true sense of Soul, and the true sense of Principle. We project everything out of ourselves, for remember, the one Mind is our Mind; it is this Mind that forms the image that is projected out of ourselves on to the universe. To use the method of Life, to be the method of Life we must start with Mind, go to Spirit, go to Soul, and have them as one operation in Principle.

The *method* is to see everything in its fullness and perfection, always projecting out of ourselves the true sense of everything—the true sense of what we are as "incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love," since "the kingdom of God is within [us]." The method is not concerned with good on a material basis, but with spiritual and divine

good, which alone is immortal. The method is concerned with man's eternal Principle which is ever-present Life.

Individuality

The method of Life shows that we are undivided from Principle, and, as we saw earlier, because we are undivided from Principle and fully reflect all that Principle is, each of us has all individuality.

How does individuality fit into Life?

We must understand individuality the way Mrs. Eddy understood individuality; and not the way the world understands individuality, namely, that individuality is one out of a series and is unique, having a way and manner of what the world calls individuality.

In Science it is different. Here, too, each is unique, but here Life, or individuality, says, "I am undivided from Principle." What then is Principle?

Principle says, "I have infinite ideas, therefore I don't have an individual individuality." What does this mean to us? It means that you and I, each one of us, has all individuality. This individuality is brought out through spiritual reflection in Spirit. *Each of us expresses all individuality* as our individuality.

What do we mean when we say individuality characterizes Life? This statement means we are undivided from Principle, whereas the human concept of individuality is actually isolation because it says, "I am only a man so don't ask me to do what only a woman can do; or I am only a woman so don't ask me to do what only a man can do." The world thinks of individuality as a division of

qualities, but in spiritual existence *each individual has infinite individuality*. Each is at the same time in possession of every quality and attribute: of fatherhood and motherhood qualities, and of sonship qualities. Each has at the same time the qualities of a daughter, a friend, teacher, counselor, etc. Each has within himself every quality and attribute at the same time because each is undivided from Principle.

In isness, each has all individualities at the same time. When we understand our Principle we will see and experience this individuality. The One has to be infinite in individuality, and in expression as infinite individualities.

When we studied Spirit we learned that Spirit diversifies, classifies, individualizes, but as we saw, Spirit is only the ability to do that. It is then up to Soul to actually diversify, to give every object its gender and identity; it is up to Principle to classify; and it is up to Life to individualize all identities. So we have the creator in Mind; then Spirit orders that whole realm of the ideas of Mind. It orders them through the diversification or genderization of Soul, through the classification of Principle, and through the individualization in Life. Then Truth comes, saying: "And everyone has its perfect form." "Perfect" is Love; and "form" is Truth. In this way we have all seven synonyms, and our individuality is complete.

Life is Being

"Isness" and "existence" seem alike, but isness is a more absolute form of beingness. The term "existence" is usually used for "isness" in the human, to give to the human a Life sense. "Ever-presence" is still a space sense and not an isness sense, in that it implies "where" in "existence" everything is. It is very difficult to bring out the ideas of Life because it is always is, is, is. If we could just touch the fact that is, is, then we would have multiplication, individualization; we would have self-supporting, self-maintaining being in expression. Everything is at hand when we realize that isness is. It helps to think of the omnipresence of $2 \times 2 = 4$, along with every other mathematical calculation.

Mrs. Eddy Made Concession to the Ignorance of the Times

In using words like eternal, everlasting, continuing, Mrs. Eddy was making *concessions* to the human sense, to the ignorance of the times, regarding the nature of Life. As we saw earlier, we wouldn't ask, "How long does 2 x 2 = 4 last?" Asking, "How long is Life?" is a wrong question. People ask these questions because they still feel life is dependent upon matter, upon material conditions. The growing certainty that life and man survive the body is helping mankind to see that life is spiritual; and our belief in death will disappear in the ratio of our spiritual growth. "Death can never alarm or even appear to him who fully understands Life" (*Un.* 40:20). In order to reach the true consciousness of Life we must learn it of good, learn it of Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love.

The time is fast approaching when material beliefs will have given way to spiritual facts, and man will have be-

come aware of his indestructible Life in spiritual existence. When we replace human misconceptions about Life with an understanding of Life that is spiritual we are using our God-bestowed intelligence. Since Life is that which *is*, it can't produce its opposite, death. Death, being a mistake, is doomed in the same way that any mistake is eventually found out and dies—it returns to its native nothingness.

What Our Resurrection in Life Means

Life is the demonstration of immortality, meaning our immortality, brought to light.

This is our resurrection in Life which differs from resurrection in Soul. In Soul our resurrection was out of material sense—the pleasures and pains of sensation in matter, etc. But resurrection in Life (our resurrection) carries a much higher sense. Because in the fifth stage we have an understanding of Principle, we willingly lay down the whole mortal concept of life because of our love for the spiritual and all that it implies. This love for the spiritual makes us conscious that divine Science is our origin, and that divine Science ushers us into ageless, endless being that is bodiless bliss, for "...Love alone is Life...." God (infinite good) is our individuality and our Life. This means that of our ownselves we can do nothing—"I can of mine ownself do nothing." The Life-Principle that dwells in us does everything, because, in the fifth stage, the ideas we studied in Mind are now the very being of Life, the essence of Life. These ideas are not just revealing themselves to us now. They are us. The ideas are now

our very being. This is why Life is indestructible; ideas can't be destroyed or limited. This is because of our oneness with Principle. Principle and idea is one, and as a result of that oneness we have our individuality in Life where we express, undividedly, the omni-action and ever operation of divine Principle.

Why Life Is Indestructible

Life is indestructible and deathless because Mind instead of matter is the producer of all that constitutes Life. The ideas of Mind are the elements, the components of Life, and these ideas are productive, producing after their own kind. When this productiveness of the ideas is *understood and accepted*, birth, decay and death will vanish like a dream, and *we will just be*. We will see we are one with that great "I AM, the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase." Life is not the source of death. Like produces like, and Life produces Life. Life demonstrates Life; it does not demonstrate its opposite.

As we saw, Life is self-sustained. It has the seed within itself if we always start with Mind. We must start with Mind because the divine Principle of all expresses itself only with Mind's ideas, which are always spiritual and never contaminated with matter. These infinite divine ideas are definitely identified by Soul, and wedded into one system by Principle. This Principle—the Principle that I am—then demonstrates itself as a universe of self-sustaining, self-maintaining, indestructible ideas. These ideas are us. They constitute our being. They are our Life. Existence separate from these divine

ideas, that are our Life, Science explains as impossible. Life, our Life, is God. The human thought has so sunken our Life in the cruel belief that life is in matter, life is in the body, that Mrs. Eddy iterated and reiterated her theme that Life is God, meaning our Life is God, the "incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth and Love." The Life we are now living is God and, except for the wool that has been pulled over our eyes because of human birth, we would experience the exaltation and divine inspiration of our divine Life today—that infinite Life that is Principle in operation. Having learned the method of Life—loving and living in accordance with Mind, Spirit, Soul, and Principle—we can reopen with divine Science the gates of Paradise.

The Gates of Paradise and a Tale of Two Frogs

This reminds me of a little story of a group of frogs who were traveling through the woods, when two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit, and when they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead.

The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit with all of their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that there was no hope and they might as well accept their fate. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could.

Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped harder and even harder and finally caught hold of a rough spot near the top of the pit and was able to scramble out.

When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought that they were encouraging him the entire time.

This story teaches two lessons:

- 1. There is power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift him up and help him make it through the day.
- 2. A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill him. Be careful of what you say. Speak life to those who cross your path.

The power of words....it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times. Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another.

Counterfeits of Life

There is no material life. There is only the illusion—the misconception, the hypnotic sense—of life in matter. It is the province of the textbook to instruct us in spiritual things, and as we learn the truth that Life is God, and there is no other life, this illusion of life in matter, life in a body, will return to the dust from which it sprang; it will return to its native nothingness.

"Mortal man," Mrs. Eddy says, "will be less mortal when he learns that matter never sustained existence, and can never destroy God, who is man's Life" (S&H 425:15).

Organic Life

Prevalent theories consider organic life to be a part of God's creation, and that God creates man through man. This, of course, is a great counterfeit of Life. Other counterfeits of Life are: food, blood, time, death, etc. The fundamental error lies in this supposition: that man is a material outgrowth of a combination of matter and Spirit. Mrs. Eddy taught that *human birth is the first death*. *Jesus also taught this*. Christian Science teaches that man is not a material outgrowth from molecule to mind, and shows that in proportion as this material outgrowth, or human generation, ceases, the eternal, harmonious being that man is, and always has been, will be discerned. Then man coexistent with God will appear—that is, we will regain our true spiritual state of existence.

As we end this Life chapter, let's remember that "He who has the true idea of good loses all sense of evil, and by reason of this is being ushered into the undying realities of Spirit. Such a one abideth in Life..." (S&H 325:2).

Dear Reader, please see the beginning of this chapter for a review of what Life is, does, and deals with.

On the following two pages are all the references from Science and Health that refer to Life.

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