

# God-given Talents

October 12, 2011

## The Bible

Jas 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

II Kings 4:8-37 It

8 it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son.

And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

18 ¶ And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to-day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.

24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite:

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the Lord hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

30 And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite, So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

I Cor 12:1,4-13 there

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

4 there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Isa 61:1-11

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

4 ¶ And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

7 ¶ For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

8 For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Matt 25:14-29 the

14 the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15 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.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 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.

21 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.

22 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.

23 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.

24 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:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I

should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Prov 17:8

8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

## Science & Health, with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy

139:4-9

From beginning to end, the Scriptures are full of accounts of the triumph of Spirit, Mind, over matter.

6 Moses proved the power of Mind by what men called miracles; so did Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha. The Christian era was ushered in with signs and  
9 wonders.

Marvels and reformation

6:3

3 Divine Love corrects and governs man. Men may pardon, but this divine Principle alone reforms the sinner. God is not separate from the wisdom He bestows. The talents He gives we must improve. Calling on Him to forgive our work badly done or left undone, implies the vain supposition  
9 that we have nothing to do but to ask pardon, and that afterwards we shall be free to repeat the offence.

Pardon and amendment

323:13-18,24-32

In order to apprehend more, we must put into practice what we already know. We must recollect that

15 Truth is demonstrable when understood, and that good is not understood until demonstrated. If "faithful over a few things," we shall be made rulers  
18 over many; but the one unused talent decays and is lost.

Need and supply

24 The true idea of God gives the true understanding of Life and Love, robs the grave of victory, takes away all sin and the delusion that  
27 there are other minds, and destroys mortality.

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

Childlike receptivity

107:1-14

1 In the year 1866, I discovered the Christ Science or  
divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love, and Christian  
3 named my discovery Christian Science. God Science  
had been graciously preparing me during many discovered  
years for the reception of this final revelation of the ab-  
6 solute divine Principle of scientific mental healing.

This apodictical Principle points to the revelation of  
Immanuel, "God with us," — the sovereign ever-pres-  
9 ence, delivering the children of men from Mission of  
every ill "that flesh is heir to." Through Christian  
Christian Science, religion and medicine are Science  
12 inspired with a diviner nature and essence; fresh pinions  
are given to faith and understanding, and thoughts ac-  
quaint themselves intelligently with God.

108:1

1 Whence came to me this heavenly conviction, — a con-  
viction antagonistic to the testimony of the physical senses?  
3 According to St. Paul, it was "the gift of the grace of  
God given unto me by the effectual working of His power."  
It was the divine law of Life and Love, unfolding to me  
6 the demonstrable fact that matter possesses neither sen-  
sation nor life; that human experiences show the falsity  
of all material things; and that immortal cravings, "the  
9 price of learning love," establish the truism that the  
only sufferer is mortal mind, for the divine Mind cannot  
suffer.

135:21

21 It has been said, and truly, that Christianity must be  
Science, and Science must be Christianity, else one or the  
other is false and useless; but neither is unim- The unity of  
24 portant or untrue, and they are alike in demon- Science and  
stration. This proves the one to be identical Christianity  
with the other. Christianity as Jesus taught it was not  
27 a creed, nor a system of ceremonies, nor a special gift  
from a ritualistic Jehovah; but it was the demonstration  
of divine Love casting out error and healing the sick,  
30 not merely in the *name* of Christ, or Truth, but in demon-  
stration of Truth, as must be the case in the cycles of  
divine light.

270:31-22

The life of Christ Jesus was not miraculous, but it was  
indigenous to his spirituality, — the good soil wherein the  
1 seed of Truth springs up and bears much fruit. Christ's  
Christianity is the chain of scientific being reappearing



Shine forth, and touch the future vast  
With Thine untroubled light.

Light up Thy word; the fettered page  
From darkened bondage free:  
Light up our way; lead forth this age  
In love's large liberty.  
O Light of light, within us dwell,  
Through us Thy radiance pour,  
That word and deed Thy truths may tell,  
And praise Thee evermore.

Hymn 181:0-4

**Hymn 181**

Rosemary B. Hackett

SARDIS

Arr. from L. van Beethoven

Loving Father, we Thy children  
Look to Thee in fear's dark night  
While the angels of Thy presence  
Guide us upward to the light.

Then we feel the power that lifts us  
To Thy holy secret place,  
Where our gloom is lost in glory  
As we see Thee face to face.

We would learn, O gracious Father,  
To reflect Thy healing love.  
May we all awake to praise Thee  
For Thy good gifts from above.

Make us strong to bear the message  
To Thy children far and near:  
Fear shall have no more dominion.  
God is All, and heaven is here.

Hymn 342:0-3

**Hymn 342**

Laura Lee Randall

ANGELS' SONG

F. Mendelssohn, arr. by E. J. Hopkins

This is the day the Lord hath made;  
Be glad, give thanks, rejoice;  
Stand in His presence, unafraid,  
In praise lift up your voice.  
All perfect gifts are from above,  
And all our blessings show  
The amplitude of God's dear love  
Which every heart may know.

The Lord will hear before we call,  
And every need supply;  
Good things are freely given to all  
Who on His word rely.  
We come today to bring Him praise  
Not for such gifts alone,  
But for the higher, deeper ways  
In which His love is shown.

For sin destroyed, for sorrow healed,  
For health and peace restored;  
For Life and Love by Truth revealed,  
We thank and bless the Lord.  
This is the day the Lord hath made,  
In praise lift up your voice.  
In shining robes of joy arrayed,  
Be glad, give thanks, rejoice.