

The Perfect Law of Liberty March 19, 2025

In the New Testament book of James we are told that if we look into the "perfect law of liberty" we shall be blessed in our deeds. So, what does it mean to "look into the perfect law of liberty?"

Hymns

1. Hymn. 136

I love Thy way of freedom, Lord, / To serve Thee is my choice, / In Thy clear light of Truth I rise / And, listening for Thy voice, / I hear Thy promise old and new, / That bids all fear to cease: / My presence still shall go with thee / And I will give thee peace. /

Though storm or discord cross my path / Thy power is still my stay, / Though human will and woe would check / My upward-soaring way; / All unafraid I wait, the while / Thy angels bring release, / For still Thy presence is with me, / And Thou dost give me peace. /

I climb, with joy, the heights of Mind, / To soar o'er time and space; / I yet shall know as I am known / And see Thee face to face. / Till time and space and fear are naught / My quest shall never cease, / Thy presence ever goes with me / And Thou dost give me peace.

2. Hymn. 2

A glorious day is dawning, / And o'er the waking earth / The heralds of the morning / Are springing into birth. / In dark and hidden places / There shines the blessed light; / The beam of Truth displaces / The darkness of the night. /

The advocates of error / Foresee the glorious morn, / And hear in
shrinking terror, / The watchword of reform: / It rings from hill and
valley, / It breaks oppression's chain. / A thousand freemen rally, / And
swell the mighty strain. /

The watchword has been spoken, / The light has broken forth, / Far
shines the blessed token / Upon the startled earth. / To hearts and homes
benighted / The blessed Truth is given, / And peace and love, united, /
Point upward unto heaven.

3. Hymn. 371

We lift our hearts in praise, / O God of Life, to Thee, / And would reflect
in all our ways / Thy purity. / Thy thoughts our lives enfold, / And free
us from all fear; / All strife is stilled, all grief consoled, / For Thou art
here. /

We lift our hearts in praise, / O God of Truth, to Thee, / And find within
Thy perfect law / Our liberty. / We bless Thy mighty name / In this
exalted hour, / And to the world in faith proclaim / Thy healing power. /

We lift our hearts in praise, / O God of Love, to Thee, / With joy to find
through darkened days / Thy harmony. / O Father-Mother Love, / We
triumph 'neath Thy rod, / We glory in Thy light, and prove / That Thou
art God.

The Bible (New International Version)

1. James 1:25 whoso

... whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and
continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they
will be blessed in what they do.

2. Luke 4:16–21

¹⁶ He (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

3. John 8:31–34

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” ³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

4. Luke 13:10–17

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

¹⁵ The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? ¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

5. Acts 5:14–20, 24–29

¹⁴ ... more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

²⁴ On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

²⁵ Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” ²⁶ At that, the captain

went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” ²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

6. Gal. 5:1, 13, 14 (KJV)

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

7. II Cor. 3:17 where (KJV)

... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

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

1. SH 224:28

Truth brings the elements of liberty. On its banner is the Soul-inspired motto, “Slavery is abolished.” The power of God brings deliverance to the captive. No power can withstand divine Love. What is this supposed power, which opposes itself to God? Whence cometh it? What is it that binds man with iron shackles to sin, sickness, and death? Whatever

enslaves man is opposed to the divine government. Truth makes man free.

2. SH 225:29–31

Men and women of all climes and races are still in bondage to material sense, ignorant how to obtain their freedom.

3. SH 226:14–2

God has built a higher platform of human rights, and He has built it on diviner claims. These claims are not made through code or creed, but in demonstration of “on earth peace, good-will toward men.” Human codes, scholastic theology, material medicine and hygiene, fetter faith and spiritual understanding. Divine Science rends asunder these fetters, and man’s birthright of sole allegiance to his Maker asserts itself.

I saw before me the sick, wearing out years of servitude to an unreal master in the belief that the body governed them, rather than Mind.

The lame, the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the sick, the sensual, the sinner, I wished to save from the slavery of their own beliefs and from the educational systems of the Pharaohs, who to-day, as of yore, hold the children of Israel in bondage. I saw before me the awful conflict, the Red Sea and the wilderness; but I pressed on through faith in God, trusting Truth, the strong deliverer, to guide me into the land of Christian Science, where fetters fall and the rights of man are fully known and acknowledged.

4. SH 227:14–29

Discerning the rights of man, we cannot fail to foresee the doom of all oppression. Slavery is not the legitimate state of man. God made man

free. Paul said, “I was free born.” All men should be free. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” Love and Truth make free, but evil and error lead into captivity.

Christian Science raises the standard of liberty and cries: “Follow me! Escape from the bondage of sickness, sin, and death!” Jesus marked out the way. Citizens of the world, accept the “glorious liberty of the children of God,” and be free! This is your divine right. The illusion of material sense, not divine law, has bound you, entangled your free limbs, crippled your capacities, enfeebled your body, and defaced the tablet of your being.

5. SH xi:9

The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus’ time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and sin to reformation. Now, as then, these mighty works are not supernatural, but supremely natural. They are the sign of Immanuel, or “God with us,” — a divine influence ever present in human consciousness and repeating itself, coming now as was promised aforetime,

To preach deliverance to the captives [of sense],

And recovering of sight to the blind,

To set at liberty them that are bruised.

6. SH 191:16

The human thought must free itself from self-imposed materiality and bondage. It should no longer ask of the head, heart, or lungs: What are

man's prospects for life? Mind is not helpless. Intelligence is not mute before non-intelligence.

7. SH 300:28–31

The universe reflects and expresses the divine substance or Mind; therefore God is seen only in the spiritual universe and spiritual man, as the sun is seen in the ray of light which goes out from it.

8. SH 373:14–15

The fear of disease and the love of sin are the sources of man's enslavement.

9. SH 315:16

The likeness of God we lose sight of through sin, which beclouds the spiritual sense of Truth; and we realize this likeness only when we subdue sin and prove man's heritage, the liberty of the sons of God.

10. SH 361:16

As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light one with the sun, even so God and man, Father and son, are one in being. The Scripture reads: "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being."

11. SH 250:12

Man is not God, but like a ray of light which comes from the sun, man, the outcome of God, reflects God.

12. SH 381:20–4

Think less of the enactments of mortal mind, and you will sooner grasp man's God-given dominion. You must understand your way out of human theories relating to health, or you will never believe that you are quite free from some ailment. The harmony and immortality of man will never be reached without the understanding that Mind is not in matter. Let us banish sickness as an outlaw, and abide by the rule of perpetual harmony, — God's law. It is man's moral right to annul an unjust sentence, a sentence never inflicted by divine authority.

Christ Jesus overruled the error which would impose penalties for transgressions of the physical laws of health; he annulled supposed laws of matter, opposed to the harmonies of Spirit, lacking divine authority and having only human approval for their sanction.

13. SH 481:3

God's being is infinity, freedom, harmony, and boundless bliss. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Like the archpriests of yore, man is free "to enter into the holiest," — the realm of God.

14. SH 227:24–25

Citizens of the world, accept the "glorious liberty of the children of God," and be free!