



To be spiritually minded  
is life and peace.

—Romans 8:6



Christian Science Sentinel  
**Bible Lens**

**Mind**

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## from the Golden Text

### I Corinthians 2:16

*We have the mind of Christ.*

Although this is the only place Paul uses the phrase “the mind of Christ,” other passages give an idea of what he means. For instance, Galatians 4:6 tells us that God has sent “the Spirit of his Son into your hearts.” One source notes, “Believers have the Spirit of Christ to reveal Christ’s thinking to them.”

To the Christians at Philippi, the apostle writes, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5, Responsive Reading).

## from the Responsive Reading

### John 4:13, 14

*Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

Water from rivers, springs, and rainfall—fresh or “living” water that constantly replenishes itself—was scarce in Judea. Wells and cisterns were necessary alternatives, but standing water from these sources could become bitter and brackish. For that reason, “a well of water springing up into everlasting life” may have sounded inconceivable. But its spiritual sense speaks of the Christ to the Samaritan woman.

Like Jews, Samaritans were waiting for the arrival of the great prophet Moses had promised (see Deuteronomy 18:15). But because Samaritans didn’t accept Jewish Scriptures other than the Pentateuch (the five books of Genesis through Deuteronomy), they had little idea what to expect. Jesus’ answer convinces the woman of his status as the long-awaited Messiah (see John 4:29).

## from Section 2

### 5 | II Kings 5:14

*Then went [Naaman] down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

Centuries after Naaman’s cure, when Christ Jesus meets skepticism about his Messiahship at his hometown synagogue, the Master cites several instances of Gentiles who received healing. Of Naaman he says, “Many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus [Elisha] the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian” (Luke 4:27). The military officer’s experience remains an example of God’s healing power for every humble heart, regardless of religious affiliation.

## from Section 4

### 10 | Isaiah 50:4

*The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.*

# An exploration of Bible citations from the *Christian Science Quarterly*® Bible Lessons

“... a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.” —Mary Baker Eddy

Classified as part of a “servant song” in Second Isaiah (chapters 40–55), this verse shows God to be the source of wisdom for God’s servants. “Attending to God’s instruction,” a Bible authority notes, “prepares the speaker to stand strong in the midst of interhuman conflict and harassment.”

## 12 | Matthew 16:1

*The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.*

Why did the Pharisees and Sadducees ask for a sign from heaven? Jesus had just fed thousands of people with a small amount of bread and fish (see 15:32–38)—surely a sign of his divine status. The Jewish leaders likely hoped to downplay that display of spiritual authority by demanding a cosmic event like the miracles of their prophets. God’s might was revealed through Moses, Samuel, and Isaiah, for example—with manna from heaven; thunder and rain; and the backward movement of the sun (see Exodus 16:4; I Samuel 12:16–18; Isaiah 38:8).

Jesus responds with a play on the reference to heaven. They are able to read the sky, he points out, but don’t understand the “signs of the times” (v. 3)—the many healing works that confirm him to be the promised Savior.

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### Resources quoted in this issue

**GT, Cit. 14:** *NLT Study Bible*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2017.

**Cit. 10:** Green, Joel B., et al., eds. *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: Common English Bible, 2013.

**Cit. 17:** Barnes, Albert. *Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Whole Bible*. New York, 1834–85. Also available at [biblehub.com/commentaries](http://biblehub.com/commentaries).

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## from Section 5

### 14 | I Corinthians 2:14

*The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Some ancient philosophers divided identity into three parts—physical, intellectual, and spiritual. While the three were believed to coexist in humans, one or another was thought to predominate. Where the physical or intellectual was strongest, the spiritual was lacking.

One commentator suggests, “Unbelievers, whose minds are blinded, function in the natural world and see life only through physical eyes (see 2 Cor 4:4). They cannot appreciate the significance of the Good News, for it is essentially a *spiritual* message.”

### 17 | Romans 8:6

*To be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Thinkers of the time drew connections between sound thinking and peace. Here Paul defines spirituality as the true source of peace, echoing Isaiah: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

A scholar interprets this spiritual-mindedness to mean “making it the object of the mind, the end and aim of the actions, to cultivate the graces of the Spirit, and to submit to his influence.... to seek those feelings and views which the Holy Spirit produces, and to follow his leadings.”

# Related healing ideas

## At Jacob's well

(John 4:1–30)

Here, at this humble water source  
a woman of Samaria  
encountered a man  
from Nazareth

Where she saw him  
a travel-weary Jew  
thirsty, foreign  
he saw himself  
the blessed bearer  
of a gift eternally fulfilling

Where she saw herself  
a scorned outcast  
mired in a shameful past  
He saw her  
the beloved heir  
of a fathomless wellspring of blessing

And in the end, of course  
his view prevailed,  
and she set out, rejoicing—  
her waterpot abandoned—  
to lead even those who'd scorned her  
to that wellspring of the Christ

By Joanne Otto  
From the October 2017 issue of  
*The Christian Science Journal*

## Who is this man?

Who is this man  
asking for a cup of cold water?\*

Can't he see the well is deep  
and the day unbearably hot?

Doesn't he see this is not his neighborhood  
and we his kinsmen not?

Who is this man  
who brings so little to the well,  
expecting me to share my dipper?

And now he says if I had asked for his "water"  
I could have  
a supply forever.

Who is this man  
who lifts my thought of water  
as not sustaining life but  
as Life sustaining me?

His words flow past my resistance,  
purging, enabling me to see.

Who is this man  
who in quenching "thirst" cleanses a murky heart?

He knows my past, but implies it's not my future.  
Dare I drink from his well, accept his infinite plan,  
and find out just  
who is this man?

\* See John 4:1–29.

By William L. Oakes  
From the January 18, 1999, issue of the  
*Christian Science Sentinel*