

# God Will Supply All Your Needs According to His Riches and Glory

Arden Wood Talk by Susan Breuer, C.S.  
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Thank you for your introduction John. It's wonderful to be here today and speak to you on the topic: **"God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory."**

The first time I visited Arden Wood I arrived in the back of an ambulance at 11 o'clock at night, taped to an immobilization board. How is that for dramatic entrance? I was being transferred from a local hospital emergency room, and from the moment that vehicle hit the driveway, I was showered with the special kind of love you find here. I received skillful and thoughtful care during the two-weeks I was here to recover from a medically diagnosed broken neck. I came to be healed - and I was! One of the sweetest memories of my stay is opening my eyes on one of the very first nights and seeing that dear nurse sitting in my room - quietly reading Science and Health. I can still see her image shining in the ambient light - so comforting and reassuring to me in those first hours. Arden Wood is a place of inspiring examples of what the Truth can do, and is doing, for mankind and I am very grateful.

I was a violin instructor many years ago, and in order to prepare a student for a performance, I would have them play their recital piece while I made wild attempts to distract them. I would poke at them, talk loudly, walk around, sing, and generally make a nuisance of myself. It

was a fun game and the students became quite good at playing their violins beautifully in spite of all the commotion. The lesson was to help them learn how to maintain focus and dominion during their performances, no matter what would try to distract them.

I am reminded of this experience when I listen to today's economic news, which sometimes seems wilder than my arm waving and noise making. There are the daily updates, the dire predictions, and the many experts, new and old, weighing in with their opinions, and advising us on the "state" of the economy. In the midst of all this clamoring for our attention, whose views will "reign supreme? Fortunately, we have an answer and promise from Phil 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." And an expanded version of this verse in Miscellany, "Rest assured that He in whom dwelleth all life, health, and holiness, will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory" (My 186:13-15). What a promise that is! We can rest assured, rest confident, rest satisfied, that our Father-Mother God, which is everything to each one of us, will not fail to provide and care for his children magnificently!

Let's begin today by tackling the issue of all those predictions. Mrs. Eddy wrote, "Predicting danger does not dignify life" (Mis 240:9-11). In fact, "predicting danger" keeps us located and focused where we don't want to be - where the problem is!

A friend tells me that in motorcycle riding there is a term called "target fixation." The principle is that to ride safely you must always look

where you want to go and not at what you want to avoid. In other words, if you want to go down the road and miss a wall - for heaven's sake don't focus on the wall - for that is one sure way to hit it. So, for you and me to navigate smoothly through today's challenges, let's not be sidetracked by fear and forecasts.

Instead, this afternoon let's turn our thought toward maintaining spiritual poise and focusing on the real as we understand it in Christian Science.

Mrs. Eddy put it so beautifully in *Miscellaneous Writings*, "Hold thy gaze to the light, and the iris of faith, more beautiful than the rainbow seen from my window at the close of a balmy autumnal day, will span thy heavens of thought." (Misc 355:28-31)

The beginning quote from *Philippians* tells us that God will supply our need according to His "riches in glory". Let's consider for a moment these "riches in glory", our spiritual understanding of what we might call the "deep pockets" of God.

Our textbook tells us "Allness is the measure of the infinite and nothing less can express God." *Allness* - the pockets of God - you can't get any deeper than that! One online dictionary defines allness as: Totality; completeness. The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines allness as entirety, wholeness, whole, and uses the following synonyms: absoluteness, all, comprehensiveness, entirety, everything, oneness, perfection, plenitude, universality, whole ball of wax, whole enchilada, and whole nine yards!

No wonder the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm says-"I shall not want."

The reality of God's Allness existed before the first dollar was printed and it will still exist after the last one has been issued.

It is so important to remind ourselves that when we think of the Allness of God, we don't frame our thinking within mortal constructs. Infinity is a spiritual idea; it is not an infinite number of finite things.

Because God is Spirit, and man, as His image and likeness, is spiritual, this doesn't make His spiritual resources far away from us but puts them as close as our next thought.

The economic security we long for cannot be found in economic models and theories, or in the measurement of material things. Supply, abundance and security are found in the understanding that the supply we need is already present. It is present because God is present, and the only thing that has gone missing is our understanding of this great fact. God has what you need, He has it today, and he is not reluctant to share it.

These resources come to us as spiritual ideas. Mrs. Eddy says, "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies. Never ask for tomorrow: it is enough that divine Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment. (Misc 307:1-5)

Never doubting is a pretty tall order at times. But, think about it this way, would anyone **ever** fly in an airplane if they thought that the principles of flight were arbitrary or at times unavailable? The laws of flight operate unseen, yet they support without variableness or “shadow of turning” any airplane built according to these laws. Now doesn't it seem ridiculous to think we might trust that these physical principles of flight could support us more reliably than omnipotent, omnipresent God?

The Bible tells us “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.” (James 1:17)

In our textbook, Mary Baker Eddy asks a provocative question, “did Jesus understand the economy of man less then Graham or Cutter? “

Graham and Cutter were two distinguished men who lived contemporaneously to Mrs. Eddy. Cutter was a medical doctor and Graham was a minister. Both these good men were involved with improving the economy of man's life and health. One hundred years ago, according to the Student's reference dictionary, “economy” was a term that applied more generally to the “management, regulation and government of a family or the concerns of a household.” Today we usually use this term when referencing financial matters, but we would all agree the question is still thought provoking and worth considering. If we update this question a bit we might ask, “did Jesus understand the economy of man less than Alan Greenspan or Ben

Bernacke”? It makes you think doesn't it? Are we lured into thinking that there is a material law of economics that determines our well being and is more powerful and overrides God's law of unbounded abundance - God's measure of allness?

I asked a friend of mine, a successful businessman, about his views on today's financial landscape. He is a longtime Christian Scientist and has spent his working career in many different aspects of the financial industry. He explained that he has proved “many times over” in his career that supply is not about adding, fixing, or making, but instead, is acknowledgement and unfoldment. He used a story from the Bible to illustrate what he meant. We are all familiar with the account of Jesus appearing to his disciples on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus called out and asked, “Children have ye any meat?” When they answered “no,” he told them to cast their nets on the right side. Then the Bible tells us they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Now, usually, this is the where the point of the story is explained; we learn that when one looks on the wrong side (material), there is nothing to be found, but then, by casting on the right side (spiritual), you find all that you need. My friend explained that while he understood the importance of the lesson of looking to the spiritual, he was much more intrigued by what happened next. You might recall that when the disciples pulled to shore with their enormous haul of fish on board, Jesus was *already* cooking fish. “As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread!” (John 21:9). When I later looked this up in *The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary*, it also draws attention to this fact, stating:

"Note that Jesus has already prepared the breakfast of bread and fish *before* even the fish are brought in by the disciples."

So, reaching a conclusion about the point of this story too early, we might be missing a bigger lesson; when the disciples pulled to shore they found our great teacher, Jesus, already cooking fish - without a net, fishing rod, or fish market in sight! This larger lesson teaches us that the spiritual idea of anything we need such as refreshment, nourishment, grace, supply, or abundance is always present, because God is present. And the realization and acknowledgement of this fact results in the manifestation of what we need - daily, hourly, each and every moment. We are not minus the supply we need, but the understanding of its presence.

Contrasting this, the world generally believes that success, abundance, and supply are contingent on *process*. In other words, on changing one's wrong investments to the right investments, wrong ways to right ways, or maybe, if you are a Christian Scientist, wrong thoughts to right thoughts. Your accountant, financial advisor or investment counselor, although he might disagree with our contention that substance is spiritual, he or she would certainly agree that *process* is how it is produced. But, abundance, substance and supply have really nothing to do with fish being one side or the other, stocks being up or down; nor does it lie in choosing between the various competing conservative or liberal economic theories. It is the understanding that true substance is spiritual, ever present and ever available. What a relief to know that supply and abundance are not dependent on adding or changing the contents of a portfolio, but the

spiritual awareness of the divine economy already at hand.

So, on one hand you have “riches” to be earned and achieved and on the other acknowledgement and unfoldment. Mrs. Eddy makes this contrast herself in our textbook on page 442.

“St. Paul says, ‘Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling:’ and then she contrasts this immediately with what Jesus said, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” The whole quote reads as follows: “Christ, Truth, gives mortals temporary food and clothing until the material, transformed with the ideal, disappears, and man is clothed and fed spiritually. St. Paul says, ‘Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling:’ Jesus said, ‘Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’ This truth is Christian Science.” *This truth is Christian Science.*

“Jesus mapped out the path for others. He unveiled the Christ the spiritual idea of divine Love.” (S&H 38:25-26)

Jesus “unveiled”- he removed the limited mortal view, the “world view” that would hide from us the ever-present Christ, voicing that unlimited sustaining view of God, Spirit. Jesus did not make something out of nothing; he revealed the “something” that was already present.



All this brings us around to the subject of faith. Faith and substance are not about achieving future good, but realizing and acknowledging the spiritual good already at hand! "...the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

For example, it is faith that allows us to view a sliver of the moon and know that the "all" of it is present. The complete, whole moon is present, even if only a small part of it appears at the moment. When we see a partial moon, we certainly don't become fearful and think that the moon needs to be prayed over and fixed because part of it is missing! In this same way, our understanding of the allness of God reveals to us that we are, at this moment, right in the middle of the riches of His glory. And we can have full faith that the acknowledgment of this the truth will unfold blessings to us in very practical and tangible ways.

Natural science removed the fear from that partial view of the moon, and divine Science gives us the understanding of God, as divine Love, that removes fear and unveils the spiritual good already present. The purpose of Christian Science practice is not to create, fix, construct, repair, change or alter anything. Everything real exists now, and is right now forever present, complete and perfect.

So now we've established that we have immeasurable resources forever at our disposal.

Here are three simple examples of conquering fears that would mask these vast resources already at hand. I chose the first one because it

shows how we let feelings of fear and frustration hide solutions. The second demonstrates the fact that God has unlimited ways to bless us and we don't need to restrict ourselves by outlining how those answers will be unfolded. The third shows how a realization of the fact that God's ideas operate unspent brought healing.

A Christian Scientist was upset and spending much time worrying and stressing that she would not be able to help her son financially in his time of great need. Feeling she was now at a dead-end, she decided to use her one last resort - prayer! She turned wholeheartedly to the Father and listened to hear God's plan for His child. In this "quiet sanctuary of earnest longings" (S&H 15:16) the idea came to her that supply is not a function of money, but of God's ideas ever in operation, and she could trust her son to God's care. In only a few moments the heavy sense of personal responsibility and burden lifted, and on the heels of this spiritual uplift she remembered a long forgotten bank account. The sum of money in this account turned out to be in the exact amount needed to help her son, no more, no less.

Coincidence? Maybe. But it didn't seem like that to this mother who had been struggling for weeks. The lesson to this mom was that by trusting God she was released from the burden of personal responsibility and stress. This was just as valuable to her and maybe even more so, than the newly reclaimed resources.

Healing is always a change of thought. We all need to trust Father-Mother God and go to Him with the expectation of an answer.

Whatever our challenge is, God can be our first response instead our last resort.

Let's go on to our next example. Because supply comes to us as spiritual ideas, we don't need to prescribe in what manner or form the solution will come into our experience. A father recently received a frantic call from his daughter. This hard-working young woman was upset over the small amount she was earning, which provided very little in the way of grocery money. In fact, she was emphatic that she could not face one more meal of pork, chicken, or beef Top Ramen. Top Ramen, as many of us know from our college days, is a dry, flavored, noodle mix. Out of curiosity, I Goggled "Top Ramen" to see if prices had risen from my college days. What I found out was it hasn't! On their home page, bloggers actually tell you where the cheapest Top Ramen can be found, and it is still possible to buy it for about 8-10 cents a package – amazing!

Anyway, this father listened and prayed quietly. What came to him was not to offer a monetary solution, but a spiritual one. He and his daughter spent the rest of their time on the phone that evening sharing ideas about the infinite ways God blesses His children. They spoke of the fact that God's supply comes to His children as ideas which are ever abundant due to the nature of their unlimited source, God. They are ever available to each one of us every moment. Their conversation concluded with that wonderful promise in Malachi: "Prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that you will not have room enough to receive it."

The very next day this daughter called her father with the most amazing development. She explained that a friend had just called with a dilemma. The problem was that this friend had ordered a side of beef, which had just been delivered to her home. She had no idea, until it arrived, of the quantity of meat involved. And since she did not have enough room to store this amount of meat, would be possible for Jenna to help her out by coming over right away and taking as much as she liked!

Don't you love it! The demonstration is effortless when the realization is perfect!

Don't restrict yourself by limiting supply to one narrow channel or establishing in advance the way your need has to be met. God is omnipresent, unlimited, and His ideas, therefore, are where you are and what you need. So, be prepared - if you pray for rain, bring an umbrella! No need to outline or predetermine, just open your thought and let supply come in.

The last of our three examples is about a newly married woman who didn't know how she and her husband were going to pay that year's property taxes. Things were tight and money was in short supply. As the payment deadline grew closer this life-long Christian Scientist devoted much time to praying and listening.

In the Bible-Lesson one week was the story of Elisha and the widow who came to him to plead for help. This desperate woman had no

money to pay the creditors who would be arriving shortly to take away her two sons to be slaves; enslavement for debt was a common practice of the times. Elisha asked her “What shall I do for thee? Tell me what hast thou in the house?” (II Kings 4:2)

The new wife stopped her reading of the Bible-Lesson to think about what Elisha was asking the woman in the story. She asked herself the same question. What do I have in my house? What am I holding onto in my consciousness or “mental” house? Who or what am I thinking is the source of my supply?

She realized she identified with the woman in the story and was totally overwhelmed and consumed by her problem. We might say, like our motorcycle illustration at the beginning, she was “target fixed” on the wall (or this case lack) that she was trying to avoid.

It occurred to her that maybe what she needed was a little higher sense of things. She thought about how God’s ideas operate unspent. You can continue to utilize spiritual ideas such as joy, abundance, continuity, home, and harmony, and because these are spiritual ideas they can never be used up. You can literally spend, spread around, or give away all the joy, kindness, and intelligence you want and no matter how much you share, there is still plenty more to go around. You cannot run short of an infinite quality emanating from the one Mind, God.

She decided, from that moment on, she would challenge any fear she had that related to lack or limitation and would calmly listen for the

wisdom God bestows.

A few minutes later, while walking down the steps to the garage, she felt that sense of fear and panic beginning to well up but immediately counteracted it. She put her foot down about entertaining these unwanted mental houseguests. So, dismissing the fears, she kept on with the business of doing the laundry. Not more than fifteen minutes passed before she discovered, tucked away in an obscure corner of the garage, an unopened box of old family books. Out of curiosity she looked up the titles of some of them on the Internet, and within two weeks sold the collection for \$3000 - more than enough for those taxes!

Pray and watch the good unfold. Rid yourself of the curse of believing you must “till the soil” (S&H 518:1). And for heaven’s sake, don’t be surprised when your tax money appears in a fish’s mouth or a box of dusty books. I know this story is absolutely true, because that new bride was me!

It’s important to talk about Animal Magnetism, which Mrs. Eddy has defined as “the specific term for error, or mortal mind.” (S &H 103:18) On page 403 of our textbook, Mrs. Eddy distinguishes between voluntary and involuntary mesmerism. Very simply, voluntary mesmerism, “voluntary” meaning acting on one’s own free will, is the discomfort and fear we sign up for ourselves. In these turbulent times, it might be the daily monitoring and analyzing of our material assets, in order to assess our worth or value. Or, maybe, we are letting the fluctuations in the news determine how upbeat we feel on a particular

day.

Involuntary mesmerism is subtle. It would entice us into believing that; God is not control of His universe; accepting that we are victims caught in a downward spiral; and that our lives are ruled by chance or the prevailing thoughts of the day. It might also make us forget that we can mentally protest against these mistaken views.

Mrs. Eddy says that in the case of voluntary mesmerism the *human mind* is employed to remove the illusion, such as deciding not to constantly pour over ones financial accounts. In the case of involuntary mesmerism, *matter* is appealed to in order to solve the problem. In other words, thinking the only way to solve an economic problem is with more money. Do we really believe that God needs more money so that he can provide us with the substance to solve our problem? It doesn't make any sense, does it?

But, Mrs. Eddy then finishes the comparison with a vital point telling us; "In reality, both have their origin in the human mind, and can be healed only by the divine Mind."

Here is the answer we need: Whether it is voluntary or involuntary mesmerism, the way out of the problem is turning to God. This redirects our thought away from the idea that supply and peace of mind are behavioral or material. More, or better matter, cannot substitute for the abundance which comes from understanding of God and the divine economy already at hand. This is the path to those

“riches in glory” which is our spiritual understanding of God and His perfect creation. There is no greater treasure than that!

I would like to end today by sharing with you one of my favorite definitions of grace. A friend of mind told me this wonderful story about a woman who I will call Vivian.

Vivian had been a member of my friend’s church many years ago. Her brothers had been very well educated - I believe three become attorneys, and one became a Judge. However education didn't extend to the women in the family.

Vivian and her sister weren't allowed to have anything to do with books. So, when she discovered Christian Science, and read Science and Health, it was wonderful, but also very difficult for her to understand. She didn't even know there was a book called a dictionary, so she asked God to tell her the meanings of the words she didn't know. My friend then shared with me something she has remembered to this day - what Vivian said God told her was the meaning of **grace**:

It is what we need in any given situation, for that moment. So, if we need to sit quietly through a concert, we can. If we need to be alert, God gives us alertness, if we need to rest, He gives us rest - if we need to understand some complicated mechanical widget, He gives us wisdom and patience. Whatever it is we have need of, for each moment, He gives us-and that is grace.



My friend had a funny little experience with this lovely definition. It was so unusual she has thought of it many times: Here is how she relayed it to me:

I was sitting in the formal setting of a Christian Science church in the Bay Area, with a lady I used to assist. She was VERY STRICT, and I had a persistent tickle in my throat, and coughed a little during the service. If looks could kill, that would have been it for me.

Well, the tickle persisted, and I thought how can I get out of here? What can I do? And I thought about Vivian's gift from God - His definition of **grace**.

I had on a long red velvet coat that I just loved, and it occurred to me to reach in the pocket, and there was a fresh stick of gum nicely done up in its shiny wrapper. I was surprised, but I chewed it, and it took my thought off the tickle and all was well.

The interesting part was, I NEVER buy gum! And even if I did, I wouldn't put it in the pocket of my good velvet coat. To this day I have no idea how that gum got in my pocket, but there it was! God's grace all wrapped up in a shiny wrapper.

In summary, let me leave you with a few final thoughts:

Like skilled metaphysicians, let's ride out this economic storm "target fixed" on the real – not the wall.

Divine Principle “Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals.” (S&H 32:2) This divine principle is the same principle that pays the rent, buys the groceries, tips the waiter and makes the car payment.

The Father has a supply of good that forever operates unspent. The more we focus on this “reality supernal” the more we see of it, and the more our human experience is blessed. Remember, don’t outline what the solution will be, but know it is already present and will certainly be revealed.

Nothing can dispossess you of your consciousness of the riches of the kingdom of heaven, and you can never be deprived of your sense of the fullness of Christ.

The Bible tells us, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” (II Cor. 12:9)

Finally,

**God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory!**