To take the torment out of time

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Any problems in your life? How much time do you feel you need to solve them? A week? A year? . .. maybe ten years? Even if you wanted a thousand years, you could have them. Today. "Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing," we're exhorted in II Peter, "that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."[1](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnote-1)

Explaining in the Christian Science textbook this passage of Scripture, Mary Baker Eddy writes, "The rays of infinite Truth, when gathered into the focus of ideas, bring light instantaneously, whereas a thousand years of human doctrines, hypotheses, and vague conjectures emit no such effulgence."[2](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnote-2)

And when we think about this, how natural it is to recognize that time in itself isn't a solution to anything. A problem needs an answer—an idea— for solution, not a segment of time. If there is a problem—maybe a physical one—that has been appearing for many years, perhaps even growing, we may be tempted to feel that a large amount of time is needed for healing. But "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years." One day or less of clear, Christ-impelled and focused thinking can reveal all the healing answers we need. The first step of the healing may well be our refusal to wait for a more convenient moment to tackle the problem, and our insistence upon resolving it now.

"Life is, like Christ, 'the same yesterday, and today, and forever.' Organization and time have nothing to do with Life,"[3](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnote-3) writes Mrs. Eddy. Like organization, at this stage time must be dealt with properly; we don't just disregard it. Our knowledge of eternity should take the torment out until there is no longer a need for time reckoning.

We may feel the need to be orderly, for example, in synchronizing our actions with another person's. "Meet you at ten," we say. And yet haven't we all had the experience of suddenly meeting just the right person at the right time? We can—and will someday— live solely by following spiritual intuition, and meanwhile we can be less enslaved by the ticking of clocks. While we don't precipitately throw out the clocks, we do strive to be the master, and not the servant, of them.

Too often our awareness of time feeds fear and despair. "It's too late," we cry and fail to accept a present opportunity. And when fear of not having enough time makes us pack so much into a day that we become impatient about the slightest delay, we're submitting to the tyranny of time. Much of the discourtesy and unkindness in daily encounters is time-related.

Christian Science helps us move out of an unhappy time frame and learn to live in eternity. It teaches us to accept the fact that the Christ is our true being. We understand Jesus' statement "Before Abraham was, I am"[4](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnote-4) as a reference to his—to man's—eternal Christliness.

As we follow our Way-shower, Christ Jesus, we follow him to before Abraham and after—to live in a spiritually defined, not time-outlined, day. This "day" is metaphysically interpreted by Mrs. Eddy in the Glossary of *Science and Health.* The definition reads in part: "The objects of time and sense disappear in the illumination of spiritual understanding, and Mind measures time according to the good that is unfolded."[5](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnote-5)

As we let "the good that is unfolded," instead of schedules, both regulate and evaluate our days, we are demonstrating eternity now. We find evidence of divine and eternal truths embracing and uplifting daily activities. Unnatural tensions and unhealthy pressures yield to harmonious action. Busy, fully packed days have more accuracy and more of the measure of good in them.

In one way of looking at it, no matter how much we have to do, we never really need more time. But that's the subject of another editorial. See you next week? Same time?

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1 [II Pet. 3:8](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=that+one+day+is+with+the+Lord+as+a+thousand+years%2C+and+a+thousand+years+as+one+day.&book=tfccs.main.hb.kj);[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnotelink-1" \o "Return to text)  2 *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,* [p. 504](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=The+rays+of+infinite+Truth%2C+when+gathered+into+the+focus+of+ideas%2C+bring+light+instantaneously%2C+whereas+a+thousand+years+of+human+doctrines%2C+hypotheses%2C+and+vague+conjectures+emit+no+such+effulgence.&book=tfccs.main.sh);[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnotelink-2" \o "Return to text)  3 *ibid.,* p. 249;[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnotelink-3" \o "Return to text)  4 [John 8:58](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Before+Abraham+was%2C+I+am&book=tfccs.main.hb.kj);[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnotelink-4" \o "Return to text)  5 *Science and Health,* [p. 584](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=The+objects+of+time+and+sense+disappear+in+the+illumination+of+spiritual+understanding%2C+and+Mind+measures+time+according+to+the+good+that+is+unfolded.&book=tfccs.main.sh).[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1980/11/82-44/to-take-the-torment-out-of-time" \l "footnotelink-5" \o "Return to text)