

Paper Snowflakes and Gratitude



Jim was in the third grade at school. One morning, his teacher told the class that they were going to fold white paper and cut out snowflake designs. Jim thought this was fun. He started to work by folding his paper and using his scissors to cut the pattern. After he had cut out his snowflake, he unfolded the paper. It fell to pieces. He had done something wrong.

Then, he took another drawing sheet and started over again. He cut very carefully along the lines, but when he unfolded the second paper, the snowflake again fell to pieces. He tried once more and the same thing happened.

Jim was very unhappy. As he looked around him and saw the perfect snowflake patterns that the other children were holding up, he wondered what the teacher would think when she saw his pieces of paper.

At Christian Science Sunday school, Jim learned that God is an ever-present help. He sat quietly for a moment, thinking, "God is Love; God is intelligence. I know that God is present to help me." Then he said to himself, "Thank you, God." Next Jim folded another sheet of paper and picked up his scissors. This time he knew that he could not make a mistake because God was present in his thinking and not error. Sure enough! This time he cut a snowflake that didn't fall apart.

His teacher walked down the aisles to look at the different snowflakes the children had made. When she came to Jim's desk and saw his snowflake, she said: "This is the nicest design in the whole class. I have never seen such a beautiful pattern."

This made Jim very happy. Immediately his thought turned to his Father-Mother God, and he silently said, "Thank You." When Jim got home after school he told his mother what had happened. She was very happy and thankful, too.

Jim's mother asked him what he was thankful for when he turned his thought to God. Jim said that he was thankful that God was so close, and that he knew God would help him.

"That's exactly right," his mother said. She told Jim that many of the Psalms in the Bible tell us how to show gratitude to God, and how it brings us blessings. As Jim was getting ready to go out to play, he thought of one more thing he needed to tell his mother. "You know Mother," he said, "This proves that what my Sunday school teacher told me is true. She said that when we are grateful and turn to God to show us the way, we can do anything, no matter how big or small. My beautiful snowflake design proved it."

Psalms 100:4,5 "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good."

S&H 3: "Are we really grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more."