

ONENESS WITH THE INFINITE

"To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings." This is the merciful message that Christian Science brings to humanity on the first page of the Preface to **Science and Health**. Immediate hope, wise counsel, upward liting of thought permeate these words, bringing to the weary and war-worn of earth a way of escape from despair. With divine tenderness and powerful persuasion, they turn men's gaze from the barrenness of materiality to behold the benisons of eternal good.

As men are led by inspired utterance to forsake troubled beliefs of existence for understanding of the universe of God's creating, unforeseen opportunities of progress appear, undreamed-of views of Life unfold. As thought is turned from the finite toward the infinite, new courage rises to lay hold upon the priceless verities of ever-present good. Then evil's waning night yields to the rising sun of righteousness, within whose radiance appears the heaven of our prayers.

The word "sustaining" before the term "infinite" in the sentence already quoted, signifies that the transition of human consciousness from belief in the finite to trust in the infinite is divinely supported. The aviator in a disabled plane, the parachutist jumping into space, the individual adrift on the sea, anyone seemingly at the end of his resources, must lean upon the infinite. In so doing he is not defying laws of Life, but is discovering divine omnipresence as able to sustain him out of exhaustless stores of Life's essentials.

The infinite is ever with man. It is really all that is present with him, because it is all. The infinite is illimitable Life, Mind, the substance and cause of the universe and man. It is omnipotent, affluent, permanent. It is that which cannot be obstructed or ended. Finiteness cannot exist within infinity, and there is no outside to the infinite. Man, coexisting with the infinite, cannot experience any limitation.

Man's eternal abiding in the boundless substance of Spirit precludes the possibility of temporary existence, dangerous living, or earth-bound footsteps. Continuous unfoldment is assured him, for in spiritual substance dwell no elements of deprivation, decay, or annihilation. This substance of inexhaustible good knows no variation of quality or quantity, no finiteness of being or limit in impartation. And Spirit bestows upon man measureless receptivity of perfection.

Spirit necessarily furnishes man with infinite intelligence and capacities, for the son of God must know and experience the extent, as well as specific adaptability, of the laws of his eternal existence. Man must move in the unbroken rhythm of endless harmony, for he fathoms divine Principle and coexists with eternity. He is destined to live without lapse from perfection, without conscious experience of limitation or danger.

The understanding of Life's infinitude leads humanity to relinquishment of doubts and fears about man's existence and to conscious possession of the wonders wrought by his creator. Since infinite possibilities belong to eternal Life, there need be no anxiety for man's future. No periods of helplessness, nor end of usefulness, can come to him. The functions of infinite Life are not dissolved by years, but are sustained by eternal laws. The nature of man's Life is invariable accessibility and dependability, flawless provision and exhaustless resources.

To depend upon infinite Life is to experience illimitable existence, to become aware of spiritual selfhood, to ascend above mortality's collapse instead of being caught in it. It is not dangerous to abandon increasingly the finite for the infinite, to abandon vanishing myth for changeless actuality. As Truth becomes dearer to men, less dependence is placed upon the finite and greater reliance upon the infinite. When the inadequacy of the temporal is seen, there is no hesitancy to grasp the eternal. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord. . . and I [the infinite] will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Infinite Life destines man to live with the glories of eternal Love and not to struggle with the disappointments of finite sense. It leaves error out of the universe, permitting no opposition to good, no enmity against it, no warfare over it. Life gives to man existence - sweet with divine certainty and calm with holy sovereignty. It bestows upon the divine offspring the ever-mounting sense and evidence of reigning with God at His right hand. This is the peace mankind is promised. This is the peace God is bestowing.

The truth that all men can reflect the infinitude of Mind has great significance for humanity. This fact leaves no opportunity for ignorance, mesmerism, fatalism. Mistakes, misunderstandings, and their penalties, are unknown in eternal Mind. The divine viewpoint is naturally accepted by all of Mind's ideas. This is true perception and perspective. As the idea of Mind, man possesses divine wisdom wherewith to discern value, and reflect the infinitude of good. The infinite is not something foreign to him. It is the very atmosphere essential to his being.

Infinite Mind imparts to man familiarity with spiritual existence, comprehension of divine individuality, understanding of eternity. It enables him to comprehend existence with its rules of endless harmony and spiritual substance, and always to find the answer of perfection. Man is not burdened with temporary beliefs to be unlearned and blotted out. Man manifests Mind's infinite sense of Life. Man's nature as the evidence of God must be infinite. This oneness with the infinite in every quality is man's heaven. Man reflecting infinite Mind comprehends the universe, cognizes and embodies the laws of immortality, lives at peace in spiritual immensity. He knows no instant of existence without God, and God's awareness of him and affection for him. Throughout infinite cycles of being he knows no limitation, matter, or evil. He inhabits eternity. The only way to reach the infinite is to learn that man has never left infinity.

Are these statements of Christian Science too transcendental for us to accept concerning man, individually and collectively? They constitute reality today. To accept, comprehend, and trust the infinite is humanity's salvation from evil. To lean upon the illimitable is to experience supporting substance, not vacuity; natural security, rather than strange uncertainty; understandable existence, instead of the unknown; a sense of being home.

Every individual in this period of human progress has come to the era of divine adventure when he must take the wings of thought and rise into grander views and experiences of Life. The little cares and petty annoyances, the surface irritations and imprisoning prejudices, the seeming subtle evils and elemental errors, all the impedimenta of mortality, are in and of the finite. To abandon the finite for the infinite in all our concepts of existence is to find release from these and other discords. This abandonment brings strength instead of weariness at the end of the day; it unfolds blessings in place of problems from morning till night; it indicates a widening view of Life rather than a narrowing horizon.

As the finite yields to the eternal in human thought, God's kingdom, His infinity, appears as it is, the All-in-all. This kingdom cannot come in finiteness; neither can finitude, the suppositional absence of God's allness, hide the appearing of ever-present divine reality. Recognition of these facts enables humanity to overcome false presentations of evil power with divine wisdom, until no unyielding wall of obstruction remains and the open door of infinite good permits new paths of progress. The Red Sea parted and the walls of Jericho fell before the recognition of infinite power.

The time again demands, as of old, that each individual shall stand alone with God, with omnipotent good. Moses' words to Israel at Jordan vividly depict humanity's present position. These are his words: "But ye that

did cleave unto the Lord your God [the infinite] are alive every one of you this day." It is vitally important that men awake further to the necessity of individual dependence upon the divine source and resources. Only in this way can personal, national, and world problems of caring for humanity finally be solved. Leaning one upon another is unwise and unsafe. Leaning upon the infinite affords endless security. This truth applies to every child, woman, and man. It is refuge from the shattered human dependencies of today, from tragic helplessness, fear, and disaster.

What seems finiteness is not reality, not a second creation, not even a temporal experience. It is only the mistaken sense of the Life which is supreme. Then to leave the finite for the infinite is not a matter of dying, but of waking to reality. It is not getting out of something in which we exist into something unknown. It is exchanging a false sense of living for true, eternal facts of being. It is becoming aware of man's relation to God and of the nature of God.

Mrs. Eddy says in **The People's Idea of God**: "Proportionately as the people's belief of God, in every age, has been dematerialized and unfinited has their Deity become good; no longer a personal tyrant or a molten image, but the divine Life, Truth, and Love, - Life without beginning or ending. Truth without a lapse or error, and Love universal, infinite, eternal. This more perfect idea, held constantly before the people's mind, must have a benign and elevating influence upon the character of nations as well as individuals, and will lift man ultimately to the understanding that our ideals form our characters, that as a man 'thinketh in his heart, so is he.'"

The waking peoples of earth are glimpsing afar off the dawn of individual, divine dominion, are moving, unconsciously perhaps, towards the realization of each man's oneness with the infinite. It may be a long way to permanent world comprehension of this basic fact of existence. But the dawn is breaking. The seeming reign of finiteness is waning. The infinite is growing clearer. Every moment of realization of man's forever oneness with the infinitude of good establishes for humanity increasing dominion over mortality and unfoldment of man's existence as the son of God. Divine Love inaugurates and accomplishes demonstration in this direction

The whole belief of material experience, of finiteness, is being shaken to its core. Old customs are slipping away, familiar surroundings are changing, human relationships are broken, trusted sources fail. Yet the child who finds himself alone in a devastated place may become aware of the presence of his Mother-Father God, infinite Love, who can cause water to spring in the wilderness for him. He may feel the safe embrace of everlasting arms. The woman, deprived of her bread-earner, may

experience the husbandry of divine Love. The man winging his way in the heavens may sense the safe, surrounding and watchful care of the One who is the source and substance of his being. Shall not the keeper of the universe be ever mindful of His own?

By infinite Love, the eternal Life of man. shall every hungry mouth be fed, every trembling tear be wiped away, every stumbling step be steadied, every wanderer guided home. Let every hand, be it tiny, helpless, tender, rough, or strong, lay hold upon the infinite One; let each heart **trust** to His keeping. So will the infinite resources prepared to bless mankind come to human comprehension and deliverance. So shall the tribes of earth be fed, and hunger and thirst no more. So shall they be quiet and dwell securely where none shall make them afraid. So shall there be no more parting and no more pain.

Today many must pray at the cannon's mouth instead of at the altar. They must be able to commune with God in sky and on sea, where no material sacrament is available. They must feel the presence of God where guns thunder instead of where the organ rolls. They must trust their dear ones to divine care rather than to human provision. They must find their Father's guidance, not in narrow, familiar paths, but in untried vastness. They must exchange the sense of guarding the human for daring to trust the divine. Their hymns ring against the rafters of the stars.

May not all this signify that the belief of finiteness is being pressed to extinction by understanding of the infinite? Truly this loss is gain. It is the fulfilling of the words written by the Discoverer of the Science of the infinite, Mary Baker Eddy, as she describes the manner of humanity's redemption from all limitation. She writes in **Miscellany**, 'To live so as to keep human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, the spiritual, and the eternal, is to individualize infinite power; and this is Christian Science.'

GOD'S PLAN

Come now! Do you not understand, have you not heard, that the Eternal is an everlasting God, the maker of the world from end to end.' He never faints, never is weary, his insight is unsearchable.

The plan of changeless and immortal Mind must be unalterable and forever unfolded. It constitutes the eternal harmony of creation, in which all God's ideas express unity, understanding, and cooperation. The continuity of

the plan is ensured by the ever-presence of Mind and its spiritual laws, maintaining the inseparability of creator and creation.

The plan of the creator is universal in its scope, beautiful in its beneficence, wholly successful in its application from the infinitesimal to the infinite, every manifestation of Life reflects the divine energy which forever expresses the condition of heavenly harmony. Since God's outlining is expressed through the action of His laws, it cannot be circumvented or prevented. The divine plan is accomplished continuously and universally. God's plan is all that is occurring, because the action of divine law is the infinite fact.

The plan of Principle has within it no element of chance or uncertainty. It can be depended upon at all times and under all circumstances to be supreme. One becomes aware of its presence and activity through reason and revelation, never through fear, superstition, or blind faith. God's plan is experienced by men in the demonstration of divine Science in proportion as the human understands and yields to the divine at every point.

Life's plan for its universe cannot be a temporary one, merely a future provision of good, or an experimental plan. Neither is it one made to cope with error of any sort. Founded upon Truth, it shows forth noumenon and phenomena. Spirit and its reflection. and is abreast of eternity. Because it is the plan of impartial justice, it does not provide for ideas collectively at the expense of the individual idea, nor vice versa. Herein is no obliteration of the lesser for the greater, no method of absorption, isolation, emasculation, or destruction. Rather are there unfolded the impartial blessings of God throughout eternity, which Mrs. Eddy in **Science and Health** defines as "God's measurement of Soul-filled years."

In Life's plan, God's law regulates the quality, quantity, and availability of all sustenance for creation. It also governs their use so that there can be no hoarding or lack, no wasted substance, and no unfair distribution. The business of Life always operates through divine modes with undepleted resources. Because Life is Love it cares for its own ideas tenderly and with infinite wisdom.

The plan of God is the plan of the one Father-Mother for the beloved offspring, replete with opportunity, progress, and freedom. Obedient to this plan man has no necessity for planning a path for himself, for God's law holds him in the unbroken rhythm of harmonious being. Knowing this, our Master said: "I can of mine own self do nothing;" and "I do always those things that please him."

Divine Love alone outlines the eternal plan. It is evident, then, that neither mortal mind, matter, luck, ancestors, nor planets can plan or govern the real man's experience. Medical beliefs cannot plan for him a classified existence of materialism, nor mortal birth put upon him years of pain and toil. Material circumstances and environments do not circumscribe his path of life; flesh and blood do not outline his being nor define his ability. Neither mythical saints nor demons direct the current of his life. Human warfare cannot execute destruction for him, because man is tributary to divine Mind alone, and God's plan keeps man in the way of eternal life.

Our Leader writes in **Pulpit and Press**, "Who lives in good, lives also in God, — lives in all Life, through all space." All the action of God's plan occurs in man. Thereby he is akin to infinity, eternity, heaven. God's outlining does not take man through matter to Spirit, through limitation to freedom, through hell to heaven, but holds him forever in the allness of divinity. He moves throughout eternity as close to God as thought is to Mind. God's purpose makes man familiar with immensity, coexistent with the universe, conversant with the center and circumference of Being. He embodies the laws of eternity and radiates the essence of immortality, for man is Godlike.

God's divine plan is unfolded through absolute spiritual creation, yet it is a plan of salvation immediately available for mankind. God's plan is established in the eternal present, and should receive immediate recognition and acceptance. It bestows its blessings today. Reality is all that surrounds humanity, and as reality is discerned and obeyed, it becomes the deliverer of men from every false belief. God's ways are higher than our ways. Therefore we need to pray to see the way defined by divine Love and walk therein.

Moses, who led the Israelites out of bondage, prayed and listened always for God's plan. As this was revealed to him, and as he obeyed it implicitly, he was successful in delivering a nation from abject depression and submission to evil into greater dominion and freedom. The leadership divinely demanded of Moses required constant communion with God, conquest of a personal sense of limitation, courage to attack the claims of error and to persist to their destruction. It required the unifying of the people, the lifting of their ideals, and a perfect carrying out of the divine plan. This plan dealt successfully with the need for courage, for food and clothing, the forming of laws with which to meet altered conditions, an entire reconstruction of the nation's character, work, resources, and relationship to other peoples. Through forty years of national transition, the

plan of God, as discerned and administered by Moses, led, provided, guarded, and prospered the Israelites as they yielded to it.

In Numbers it is said of Moses that he "was very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth." Yet his experience is certainly one of outstanding individual progress and successful leadership. No one can fail to realize that this accomplishment was due to his obedience to the plan of God. Even in his last admonitions to the children of Israel he besought the nation to hearken to God's statutes and to obey them. By so doing, he declared, they might live and possess the land which God had given to them.

In this age God has unfolded His plan of divine Science to another meek and obedient servant, our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, and she has written it down for all mankind. She has given God's plan to men in her writings explanatory of the Bible. We need only to understand and obey this plan in order to reach our promised land of freedom from material bondage. God's way is as efficacious now as it was of old.

It is possible for everyone today, whether he finds himself in authority or among the ranks, when material sense is shut out, to commune with God through true spiritual understanding in silent prayer. In such communion God reveals His plan to human thought and enables men to obey it. This delivers them from becoming the victims of experimental human plans. Our Leader writes in Miscellany: "Right thoughts and deeds are the sovereign remedies for all earth's woe;" and, "Individuals, as nations, unite harmoniously on the basis of justice, and this is accomplished when self is lost in Love or God's own plan of salvation."

The way for men to come into obedience to God's purpose and to reap its blessings is summed up in the terms which were given to Moses on the mount of revelation, reiterated and demonstrated by Christ Jesus, and scientifically explained by Mrs. Eddy, namely, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This approach to God's plan is feasible for all people and nations. It has in it no harmful element. It is the only solution of our world affairs.

Of God's plan and its scope for human salvation we read in **Science and Health**: "The divine Principle of the first Commandment bases the Science of being, by which man demonstrates health, holiness, and life eternal. One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; constitutes the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the Scripture, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself;' annihilates pagan and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political and religious codes; equalizes the sexes;

annuls the curse on man, and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed." Could any human plan accomplish this?