

Letter 12

“Dear one,” Mary Baker Eddy comforted, “realize for yourself and all each day clear and strong that the Christ, Truth, does not merely open the windows of heaven for us, or promise us heaven, but the knowledge of the Christ in Christian Science is heaven here and now. This knowledge of Truth as it is taught in Science is heaven’s open door for all.”

THE SYSTEM

Seen in the classified section of a local newspaper:

“Illiterate? Write today for free help.”

Are you illiterate in the “system” of Christian Science? Yes? Then you are in the company of nearly six billion people today. This fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy that “the remnant shall be small and very feeble.” Why is the remnant so small and feeble?

Are we like the man who told his doctor he wasn’t able to do things around the house that he used to do? At the end of his examination the man said, “Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me.”

“Well, in plain English,” the doctor replied, “you’re just lazy.” “Okay,” said the man. “Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife.”

Mrs. Eddy advised, “Work, work, work, watch and pray.” Are we making excuses to hide our laziness? Or worse, are we reluctant to give up the comfort and seeming pleasure of our errors? Are we like the two shipwrecked sailors adrift on a raft in the ocean? When they had just about given up hope of rescue, one began to pray loudly: “Oh, Lord, I’ve led a worthless life. I’ve neglected my children and been unkind to my wife, but if you’ll save me, I promise I...’

“Hold it!” the other shouted, “I think I see land!”

Like the sailors we can take hope. The Promised Land is in sight, and we can reach it, if we overcome our own laziness and our attachment to error. Though the moment seems dark and the prophecies dire, if you read the last page of the Bible you will see it turns out all right.

Even now, help is at hand. In the year 1866 Mary Baker Eddy’s experiences led her to discover the “system” that heals every discord by revealing our oneness with Love and all good. This “system,” which Mrs. Eddy denominated Christian Science, all can learn, and all eventually will learn, just as everyone has learned that the earth is round and not flat and as all today can learn the science of mathematics. But we must make the effort to learn it just as we today learn the science of mathematics.

Mrs. Eddy humbly said, “I am not the door through which to enter, nor the rock upon which to build, but what God has spoken to this age through me [through her

own true Mind, “the kingdom of God within” her consciousness] is the way and sure foundation, and no man enters by any other way into Christian Science.”

In teaching Christian Science, our Leader quickly found that, “Apart from the usual opposition to everything new, the one great obstacle to the reception of that spirituality, through which the understanding of Mind-science comes, is the inadequacy of material terms for metaphysical statements (S&H 114:32).” To overcome this problem, she worked long and hard to give us – through divine Science – seven terms for God, and to define them and their relation to each other, and how they operate.

How was the infinite subject of mathematics reduced to a system that any child can learn and demonstrate? Many thousands of years ago someone must have conceived that what today we call the infinite subject of mathematics could be reduced to a system, just as Mary Baker Eddy, through divine revelation, learned that the infinity of our true being could be reduced to a system that all could learn and understand

That person, thousands of years ago, could have begun by counting the ten fingers of his two hands, and named them 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. And, gradually (guided by the one Mind) he learned to add, subtract, multiply and divide. That grew into the system of mathematics that each child can learn in school. In the same way the Science of our being will some day be taught in all schools and then, like Shakespeare wrote, we can be in any place as soon as think it. Through Mary Baker Eddy’s great discovery of the Science of our being “Mankind [will] awaken to their present ownership of all good” (My. 356:1)....

Numerous Revisions Bring System To Textbook

Think of Mary Baker Eddy providing 432 editions! What a sacred” and painstaking labor of love! Why did Mary Baker Eddy devote so much time, energy and thought to revising Science and Health? Through these numerous revisions of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy worked carefully to bring the system of Christian Science to full expression. Finally, with changes made in June, 1907, she brought the entire textbook – the greatest book that has ever been written –into a divine God-governed system that can be learned and demonstrated like that of mathematics and music. Having perfected this “system” Mrs. Eddy did not renew her copyright on her final edition of Science and Health; henceforth a copyright was no more needed for the Christian Science textbook than it is needed for mathematics or music.

What was the crowning, essential touch that brought the system to full perfection? In 1907, after forty-four years of arduous work, Mary Baker Eddy gave you and me and all mankind a definitive statement of what we really are, when she penned the

most momentous sentence ever written in the history of mankind. What was this sentence? It was her answer to the question, "What is God?"

It said: "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love."

What You Are In Reality

Why is this definition of God so vitally important? It tells you not only what God is, but also what, in reality, you are. This statement, so familiar to students of the final edition of Science and Health, crowns the momentous proclamation stated in numerous ways in Mrs. Eddy's first edition and early classes....

A student recorded that Mrs. Eddy told a class, "that upon the truth of these terms for God rests the basis of the Science; in fact, they are the Science." To another class Mrs. Eddy said, "Upon the Truth of these terms for God, rests the whole structure of Christian Science" (Mis. Doc. pp. 61 & 84).

Here we see how the first and last editions of Science and Health work together to open our perfect understanding of Science. After finishing the last edition of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy turned to Laura Sargent and said, "There, Laura, I have hidden it and hidden it and hidden it and if I hide it any more they will never find it." What had she hidden? She had hidden what she plainly, outspokenly –like the lion's roar, – proclaimed in the first edition: "You are the Principle, Love," because "the kingdom of heaven is within you" – is your true Mind and consciousness.

The last edition reduces to human comprehension what God had revealed to Mary Baker Eddy in the first edition. It may take a thousand years for all humanity to fully understand the system Mary Baker Eddy has laid out, or hidden, in the textbook; but it is there, and it will be learned, just as we all have learned that the earth is round and not flat as everyone believed only five hundred years ago, and just as we all have learned the science of mathematics.

What Happened When People Realized The Earth Was Round?

In Science and Health (p. 268:1) Mrs. Eddy tells us, "In the material world, thought has brought to light many useful wonders. With like activity have thought's swift pinions been rising to the realm of the real, to the spiritual cause of those lower things which give impulse to inquiry.

When people realized that the earth wasn't flat, that it was round, vast new worlds opened up for mankind; an era of unprecedented discovery was ushered in. Five hundred years ago no one knew the earth was round. Today we all know it, and this knowledge has transformed every aspect of our lives

Now we are on the brink of a new understanding that will bring about an even more momentous transformation, stripping away many more limitations.

What is this discovery?

We are realizing that the world isn't material. Mankind is nearing the end of the material sense of things. A few hundred years from now humanity will be saying: "Just think! Five hundred years ago people thought they lived in a matter body! Can you believe it? They must have been living in a cave!"

Yes, the material sense of things is coming to an end as thought is being spiritualized. Mrs. Eddy tells us that in proportion as man including the universe is translated back into Spirit, all will be found harmonious and perfect. (S&H 209.) The end of the material senses is as inevitable as the end of the flat earth.

We see the end of the material sense of things in what our physical scientists are finding and teaching. The Wall Street Journal ran an article that said there are signs that physical scientists are becoming theologians. And daily we read of medical doctors telling their patients that it's all in the mind; "get rid of hate, worry, fear and all wrong thinking and you will recover."

All the wonders of the last five hundred years of human progress are as nothing compared to what lies ahead for us. Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy healed the sick and raised the dead. They transcended the seeming limits of time and space and matter. "Human theories are inadequate to interpret the divine Principle involved in the miracles wrought by Jesus and especially in his mighty, crowning, unparalleled, and triumphant exit from the flesh" (S&H 117:19).

When once we learn the "system" incorporated in the textbook, we too, like Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, will do the marvelous things they did. The possibilities are endless. Jesus said, "When ye stand praying," believe you already have what you are asking for.

We are no longer living in a cave or in the theological age. We have come to the scientific age where Science has a "system." (S&H 146:31). We have come to the age of "thinkers." But while we tend to read our stuff carefully, the gears of eye and mind are not engaged, and we end up in such syntactical jungles as saying: "China is a big country inhabited by many Chinese." Or, with such profound statements as "most of our imports come from overseas," or "If the strike isn't settled quickly, it may last awhile."

...Judge Hanna and The System"

Judge Hanna once wrote Mrs. Eddy asking, "If the system is so important, why can't it be laid out in just so many words?" He apparently had glimpsed the system and had written regarding it. In answering, Mrs. Eddy wrote him, "I have erased your verities, they are spoken too soon."

And then she added, "The letter alone without the due process of Spirit and of Love, almost inhumanizes a mortal...The textbook contains it all, but so arranged

as to promote growth in Christian character,” she told him. The human self must be evangelized. “I have learned from bitter experience that the head instructed before the heart is ready causes dangerous difficulties and sore defeats.”

Let us keep this admonition in mind as we proceed to study the “system,” and let us see that “the heart is ready.” When it is, “begin to weave, and God will give you the thread.”

The “System” In Christian Science

Mary Baker Eddy once said that if in the Bible the term Principle had been substituted for the term God, things would have been clearer. We must never forget that the Principle is Love, and is our real Mind. Mrs. Eddy says, “The time for thinkers has come.” Let us not be like the man who went to a psychologist and complained that he felt like a dog.

“Everything I do makes me feel like a dog,” he said to the psychologist. After putting him on the couch, the psychologist asked:

“How long have you felt this way?”

“Ever since I was a puppy.”

Let us now begin to give up our “puppy” ways and feelings, and begin to look at the divine “SYSTEM” Mrs. Eddy incorporated in the pages of Science and Health.

In the late 1930’s Mr. John W. Doorly began to see the system Mrs. Eddy incorporated in the textbook. Max Kappeler followed, writing many books. Among the other great thinkers supporting John Doorly’s findings have been Gordon Brown, Peggy Brook, Lawrence Sinton and Irene Oppenheim, to name a few. They have gone far in explaining the divine “system” Mary Baker Eddy incorporated in Science and Health.

When I talked with Mr. Doorly in 1949, I prosaically said, “God is All.” He said, “You’re close, lady but no cigar!” No, I’m sure those were not his exact words, but that’s what he meant. Then he explained, “Certainly God is All, but if I said, music is all, or mathematics is all, what good would that do you? In each case you have to learn their system. In music you have to learn the seven notes and how they operate through tone, rhythm, melody and harmony. And in math you have to learn the ten digits and how they operate through addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Only then can you demonstrate the infinite subjects of music or mathematics.”

To that I said, “Amen.”

I knew that if “the kingdom of God is within” my consciousness, then all the truth that I am Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love is also within my very own true consciousness, just as all of math and all of music is already within me or I could not learn them.

Learning is essential to bring them out. Mrs. Eddy has over a hundred references in Science and Health to the fact that what constitutes our true being must be learned.”

“The nature and position of mortal mind are the opposite of immortal Mind,” as Mrs. Eddy explains in her article Principle and Practice. “The so-called mortal mind is belief and not understanding. Christian Science requires understanding instead of belief; it is based on a fixed eternal and divine Principle, wholly apart from mortal conjecture; and it must be understood, otherwise it cannot be correctly accepted and demonstrated.”

Mrs. Eddy “saw the human and divine coincidence, shown in the man Christ Jesus, as divinity embracing humanity in Life and its demonstration, – reducing to human perception and understanding the Life which is God” (S&H 561:16-20).

Christian Science is Science, and, as John Doorly, Max Kappeler, Gordon Brown and other far-seeing students realized, there is no Science without a system. Before we can demonstrate Christian Science absolutely, as Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy did, we must learn its system and learn how to use it just as we learn how to use the infinite system of math or music.

Science Calls For Order, Diversification

Thousands upon thousands of hours by many sincere, cultured students have gone into the study of the system since 1938.

We can here give only the tiniest indication of it.

A system calls for order and diversification. For instance, in mathematics the usefulness of the numbers 1, 2,3,4,5, etc. derives from both their order and their distinctness.

Similarly, in Christian Science we have the seven synonyms for God (for infinite good), operating through Word, Christ, Christianity, and Science on four levels of thought. This constitutes the “system” of Christian Science. For instance, to teach the system, Mrs. Eddy has four “Word” chapters; “Prayer” is the Word as the Word. “Atonement and Eucharist” is the Word as the Christ. “Marriage’ is the Word as Christianity, and “Christian Science versus Spiritualism” is the Word as Science.

The next four chapters are Christ as the Word, Christ as the Christ, Christ as Christianity, and Christ as Science.

Then we come to four chapters on Christianity; Christianity as the Word, Christianity as the Christ, Christianity as Christianity, and Christianity as Science.

The last four chapters are the Science chapters: Science as the Word; Science as the Christ; Science as Christianity; and Science as Science.

To demonstrate Christian Science unfailingly we have to learn our oneness with the seven synonyms for God, namely: Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love, since they constitute our real spiritual being. Then we have to learn how these seven synonyms for God operate in a fourfold calculus of Word, Christ, Christianity, and Science, on the four descending levels of spiritual consciousness, namely: Science itself, divine Science, absolute Christian Science, and Christian Science.

As we study and understand the seven synonyms through the infinite ideas which express them, we are awakening ourselves to our real and true Christ selfhood.

Let's Start At The Very Beginning

What is the most important question in the Christian Science textbook? Isn't it the question: "What is God?" And why? Because, as we noted earlier, it tells you what you divinely are. The foundation, the basis, of all Mrs. Eddy's teaching is found in the question, "What is God?" and her answer: "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind [your real Mind]; Spirit [your real substance, reality]; Soul [your true identify]; Principle [your forever harmony of operation]; Life [eternal indestructible individuality]; Truth [your Christ consciousness]; Love [your holiness, peace, glory].

Students of Science and Health will find that each synonym has its own distinct meaning. For example, the synonyms can be characterized as: law (Mind); order (Spirit); rule (Soul); system (Principle); method (Life); form (Truth); and plan or design (Love).

Or again they can be characterized as: wisdom (Mind); purity (Spirit); spiritual understanding (Soul); spiritual power (Principle); love (Life); health (Truth); holiness (Love) (S&H 116:2).

It is quickly evident, as we will show, that each synonym has many characteristics and each is characterized in Mary Baker Eddy's writings differently than the other six synonyms. Each denotes a unique quality or attribute pertaining to God, infinite good, which stands in unique relation to each other quality or attribute. For example:

Mind is characterized by intelligence, law, power, basis, information, action, creativity, wisdom, etc.

Spirit is characterized as substance, reality, order, the only, strength, divine energy, good, purity, etc. Here note that the infinite ideas of Mind have the nature of Spirit.

Soul is characterized by identity, Ego, self-sameness, rule, spiritual understanding, intact, balance, etc.

Principle: Mind, Spirit, Soul, as one, constitutes our Principle. Principle is characterized as harmony, divine government, structure, system, Science, spiritual power, foundation; Principle explains, etc.

Life is characterized by is-ness, eternity, God-governed individuality inspiration, method, etc.

Truth is characterized by consciousness, the whole, form, deliverer, health, ideal, remedy; Truth uncovers, unveils, etc.

Love is characterized by fulfillment, plan, purpose, design, rest, peace, perfection, holiness; Love accepts, etc.

The above are excerpts from the first part of Helen Wright's - LETTER number 12 – at a future date we will post the second half of this LETTER.