

February 2011

This month we are presenting a series of articles by Julia M. Johnston which were originally published In The Christian Science Journal between 1930 and 1966.

The Bookmark reprinted and put them in book form in a book titled Peace. Included here is the Introduction that Ann Beal wrote for that publication.

PEACE

by JULIA M. JOHNSTON

A Collection of Articles on Christian Science

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INTRODUCTION

Christ Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you." Mary Baker Eddy wrote, "Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind" How close we are to reflecting this divine state of Mind depends on how material or spiritual our viewpoint is. We are not really certain what to expect when we find this heavenly kingdom within, for we are presently in the human dream of material causes and mortal personalities. However, striving to achieve an understanding of God ushers us into this pure atmosphere of divine Love, and Mrs. Johnston's articles provide a vision of this heavenly kingdom.

During the years when she wrote for the Christian Science periodicals, Julia Johnston was a favorite with readers because she transcended the mortal state of mind and wrote about this kingdom of God as a present reality. She opens the way for us to find the peace that comes when we learn to "draw nigh to God." She describes this reality in words that open up a broader vision of the millennium that this Science of God is destined to bring us.

Reading these articles lifts thought above the chaos and confusion of the mortal dream and unfolds a vision of reality that must surely resemble "a new heaven and a new earth" of John's revelation.

Mrs. Johnston's articles have been published in two books. The first is entitled *The Science of Celestial Being*, and this one is on *Peace*. Some of the articles in this second book were written during the time of World War II. They relate to the threat of war, the challenges of the war itself, and the aftermath of the most destructive war in history. Although her articles were written for a war-torn world, they are just as much needed in today's world. The forms of evil now are different — terrorism, mind control, nuclear and biochemical warfare — but the challenges are basically the same. They remain a constant reminder that the need to overcome evil is still with us. Our prayerful work is not to know what evil is doing or capable of doing, but to so spiritualize consciousness that we can neutralize it and prevent it from doing anything.

Mrs. Johnston reassures us that we will not always have to contend with evil. The time will come when it will lose all seeming reality. It will disappear from our experience, and the kingdom of God will be seen as the ever-present reality.

Peace is found in the consciousness of the allness of good. It is essentially spiritual and mental, and is forever possessed by man and the universe. It is not dependent upon material conditions or circumstances. Peace is something just between God

and man — the consequence of man's coexistence and correlation with God. It is a quality of being which permeates all substance, Life, and Mind, accompanies all unfoldment of existence, and abides throughout eternity.

Peace cannot be disturbed or destroyed by trivial or cataclysmic mortal belief. It is not at the mercy of every passing wind. Peace is not a static state of unconsciousness, a quality of death, nor a condition of matter. Peace cannot be shaken, invaded, or removed. It is as fixed as God. It is an essential quality of His being. Peace is natural, inevitable, throughout creation, inasmuch as God's universe is His compound idea, which includes neither discord nor error. Peace is a quality of universal Life, evidencing the uncontested sovereignty, the changeless perfection, the ever-presence and omnipotence of Life.

War cannot limit peace. Divine Love with infinite mercy has made it an eternal characteristic of Life for man to reflect forever. Peace is an undying reality, not something defined on a scrap of paper. It is something lived, not something blueprinted. It cannot be defined by men, but was proclaimed by the Prince of Peace.

At Jesus' birth shepherds heard its announcement, and this message is still audible to humble hearts. The soldier has heard its echo in the song of a lark between the cannon blasts. He has seen its promise in a fragrant flower lifting its head in a mine-sown field. The mariner has sensed its presence where stars lighted a convoy's way. The mother waiting and watching for a loved one's return has felt its tender embrace. The weary executive of a nation has found it closer than overwhelming responsibility.

Peace is a quality of the all-knowing Mind that knows only its own infinitude, the ever-presence of good. Peace is understood by men in proportion to their recognition of the unreality of evil. Mortal mind cannot manipulate peace to serve its own ends. Divine Mind possesses it always for the purpose of unfolding heaven. Peace is always appreciable to spiritual sense. A spiritual quality, it is nourished by divine Love, perpetuated by divine law, and manifested by man through reflection. Peace cannot be removed, or withdrawn, but can always be found in the coexistence of all identities that form the universe of Mind's creating.

Because man is forever at one with God, who is his Mind, his Life, substance, source, and condition, he is at peace. In the depth of his consciousness and the height of his majesty, peace forever reigns.

Primarily and eternally, man is at peace with himself and all creation, because he includes within himself all right ideas and has dominion over them. All his paths are paths of peace, because he is continuously and completely controlled by divine Science.

Peace is the very essence of man's being, because perfection is the nature of the I AM whom he reflects. This peace is stillness potential with unfoldment. Because man reflects all that God is, he is at peace, for he knows no desire, lack, or strife. Since nothing can be taken from him or added to him, he is at peace. Because he does not have to pass from one temporary stage of existence to another, but remains at the point of perfection, he is always at peace. His peace is that of divine Principle, scientific and perpetual, fundamental and changeless.

Peace and evil cannot coexist. Only as human consciousness forsakes belief in evil and materiality can it find peace. The great opportunity of the world today is to know the peace of God's creating, produced and maintained by spiritual law. The peace of divine Mind is the perpetual flowering of divine goodness. It fills the atmosphere of the spiritual universe, is the fundamental quality of the nature of all creation, and is reduced to human perception through Christian healing.

Peace is not fragile, evanescent, or illusive. It is mighty, dependable, abiding. Peace is not upset by evil, helpless before aggression, vanquished by force. It is immortally real and enduring, ever tributary to divine Principle, and emanating therefrom. In the midst of the storm Jesus was conscious of peace, and the storm ceased. He was aware of it in the halls of justice, in the temple, in the market place. It was with him when he was alone and when he was in the midst of the crowds, when the rabbis challenged his doctrine and when he cast out seven devils. He kept the peace of God in social, civil, and religious contacts. Neither the advanced illness of his friend, Lazarus, the treacherous act of his pupil, Judas, the false ambitions of his disciples, nor untoward circumstances of any sort separated him for a moment from this quality of Life. He walked with peace from the manger to the ascension. To those who follow him he left this heritage: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."

How notably did our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, carry on this heritage of the Master. Sore and long were her trials, but she kept the peace of God under every provocation. May her adherents do likewise in all their walks of life, with Scientists and non-Scientists, with friends and strangers, when undergoing trials and in distress. "Of this we may be sure," Mrs. Eddy says, "that thoughts winged with peace and

love breathe a silent benediction over all the earth, cooperate with the divine power, and brood unconsciously o'er the work of His hand." {Miscellaneous Writings)

He who keeps peace within himself, who expresses the peace of God, may he not be the peacemaker to whom Jesus referred? He who demonstrates the unreality of a power apart from God, who obeys the truth of being, who is yielding hourly to the reality of man as the likeness of God, is a mighty factor for peace in the world. Such peacemakers are needed much today. Changes in rulers, shifting of alliances, betterment of human governments will not ensure permanent peace to the world, but the awakening of mankind to the realization that man is the son of God will reveal the everlasting peace of God. Those who know and embody in some degree the spiritual nature of eternal peace are contributing invaluable and permanent assistance to humanity's progress out of chaos, for as our Leader has long since declared, "The characters and lives of men determine the peace, prosperity, and life of nations." (The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany)

Today Christian Scientists have a tremendous responsibility, as well as the opportunity of the ages. The revelation of Truth, which has been vouchsafed to them, is the most precious and potent possession on earth. To the extent that it is lived will the heaven of peace be manifested in our times. Of these days of world purification our Leader has prophesied in Science and Health: "This material world is even now becoming the arena for conflicting forces. On one side there will be discord and dismay; on the other side there will be Science and peace." The side of peace is the side of spiritual existence. There is no peace, no safety or future, for false belief. Neither veneration, adoration, organization, nor education can save falsity. Truth alone will endure, and with Truth is peace. Out of the tumult and shouting that throng the day may be heard the voice of Christian Science saying, Come unto me, all you who labor and are weary with the strife, and I will show you peace.

THE HOLY FAMILY

For many centuries, devotion of religious groups has been directed toward the unique family of three who, in the first year of Christianity, came out of Bethlehem of Judea, traveled into Egypt at the direction of an angel, and later settled in Nazareth. This family was composed of the newborn babe Jesus, Mary his mother, and Joseph of Nazareth. Old Testament prophecy had foretold the appearing of the immaculate Jesus as a man sent from God, and the aura of the Son of the Most High enveloped him even before his birth.

As the Bible student follows the sacred career of Jesus, he becomes aware that the great Way-shower had much to say about his family. The first recorded pronouncement he made along this line was when he was twelve years old and had lingered in Jerusalem. Finding him in the temple, Mary rebuked him for a lack of filial obedience, and he replied that he must be attending to his Father's business, referring to God as his Parent.

As time went on he often spoke, not of his connection with the material household of Nazareth, but of his divine relationship with God, the Father of all. Once in the synagogue the people questioned his divine authority because they knew his human relatives. On another occasion he stated that whoever did the will of his Father in heaven was his brother and sister and mother.

When Jesus was instructing his disciples how to pray, he taught them to say, "Our Father." In this way he declared that God loved them as He loved him and that because of this they could do the works he did. In fact, the whole of Jesus' sojourn among men was filled with utterances and experiences which showed that the question in Malachi, "Have we not all one father?" should be answered affirmatively.

Here, then, is reason to accept with humility and reverence an expanded sense of the meaning of the phrase "the holy family." Must it not apply also to the infinite Father-Mother God and His universal family of spiritual children created in His likeness? The acceptance of such a thought releases further comprehension of the Master's teachings and contains divine healing for humanity. No one is shut out from the heavenly significance of this truth.

In God's holy family, every member is Godlike, and every blessing is impartially bestowed. Here are no divisions, separations, or tragedies. Everyone in this family has equal access to exhaust-less resources and shares alike in the Father's inheritance. No one has more advantages than another, and no one has to wait on the sidelines while his brother advances. No one is more like his Parent than another or preferred above another. In this true family there are no favorites and none

neglected. No member of the family has a bad start or a baffling experience. Not one ever leaves his family or becomes isolated. Each one spiritually honors his Father-Mother, his brother, and himself.

The history of the holy family is unmarred by conflicts, calamities, or crime. It has always been held in the harmony of heaven. Because God as Father-Mother is one indivisible, infinite author of man, there can be no divorce there. So man never loses his perfect Parent, never lacks the influence of Mother-love, or the guidance of his Father's control.

Remembering the Master's experience as an infant and as God's messenger to mankind, we recall that angels were ever at hand to guard and guide him. And in the book of Psalms it is clearly stated that God gives His angels charge over all His own. Every member of the holy family is embraced in the care of angels, divine blessings, at all times. Christian Science explains this fact to every listening ear.

The angel thought of man's relationship to God embraced the human experience of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph when the rule of the greatest empire then on earth threatened the death of the newborn babe. It told the family to go into another country and stay there till would-be murderous evil was dead. Then it continued to protect all the human years of our Way-shower. So can it guard and guide us all to endure and triumph until every sense of a self apart from God's offspring is forever stilled.

Among Biblical figures, Moses, Isaiah, Daniel, Peter, and, most important of all, Christ Jesus spoke in various ways and in different centuries of this true condition of man as a member of the holy family. Today, through the light that Christian Science throws on the Bible, it is possible to recognize man not only individually but collectively, nationally, and universally as the offspring of God, as divine Mind's beloved family.

After referring to a lower concept of God, Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, writes: "This human sense of Deity yields to the divine sense, even as the material sense of personality yields to the incorporeal sense of God and man as the infinite Principle and infinite idea, — as one Father with His universal family, held in the gospel of Love." (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures) To entertain this more than worldwide concept of man in God's likeness, the student needs to abide in uplifted thought. The earth-level viewpoint consists of thinking of evil governments, sadistic rulers, enslaved races, enemy neighbors, and false ideologies. The inspired view shows every part of God's real universe inhabited

by the holy family of Spirit's offspring. With this recognition comes unity of existence, filled with the loving of one's own family to the earth's most distant bound and beyond.

Starting with the correction of a mistaken mortal sense of self and family and the acceptance of the true idea of them, men may begin to experience the presence of God's family of man in His likeness. This exalted concept will include relatives, church, community, country, and finally every nation. So will God's spiritual offspring come into view over all the earth, the holy family to which every man belongs.

In Mrs. Eddy's book, *Retrospection and Introspection*, there is a paragraph which explains the way for mankind to exchange the sorry spectacle of mortality for the spiritual dignity of man. It begins as follows: "Art thou still unacquainted with thyself?" Then it continues: "Note well the falsity of this mortal self! Behold its vileness, and remember this poverty-stricken 'stranger that is within thy gates.' Cleanse every stain from this wanderer's soiled garments, wipe the dust from his feet and the tears from his eyes, that you may behold the real man, the fellow-saint of a holy household."

Through all diplomacy's din and nations' jangling of instruments of war, the hearts of men may sense the presence of one infinite Father-Mother and His universal family of man. The brotherhood of man is the present reality. This is truth that renders void the assertions of treachery and war. It leaves no man who could be the audience of evil's plans or the agent for their execution. Error could not find Jesus and Mary and Joseph when it sought the life of the babe, and it cannot find anyone today who knows his identity as the son of God. He who acknowledges his Father-Mother God and every man's true selfhood as his spiritual brother, will find his human journey embraced in divinity's demonstration of omnipotent good. This understanding is defense and deliverance from fear. It demolishes barriers of hate, ends conflicts of opinions, and establishes the reign of righteousness.

Can it be presumptuous to claim and strive to live what Jesus taught of man? Nay, more, is it not imperative to do so as his professed followers? It is true that the presence of God's sons and daughters should be found everywhere, and that the family life of divinity's progeny should be experienced across the earth. To this end, with deepest veneration, may the following words from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians be read: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. . . . For this cause I

bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

"HE THAT IS HOLY, LET HIM BE HOLY STILL"

During the years when the first Christian lived as a teacher and healer of men in the Galilean country, the sins and sufferings of mankind haunted his footsteps. As the Master journeyed from countryside to city, meeting with fishermen, priests, lawyers, money-changers, civilians, and soldiers, the evils of the times clamored for redress. And the Master was aware that he had been sent of God to take away the sins of the world, the beliefs in power apart from God. Inasmuch as he declared at the close of his sojourn that he had accomplished his mission, what significance of Christian power must lie within his procedure as example for his followers!

Though partaking of the daily life about him, he seemed never to lose sight of man's oneness with God, of man's holiness. He insisted upon this as he preached and based his healing work upon it. Embodying this divine characteristic, he was able with serene supremacy to triumph over temptation, to cast out devils, to heal both open and secret sin, to prove the powerlessness and unreality of evil. The cruelty and sensuality of the era in which he worked failed to accomplish his overthrow or prevent his ascending proofs of man's God-given dominion.

Man's God-given dominion — that is what holiness is. This quality of being was not confined to Christ Jesus, for the Bible states in the first chapter of Genesis that God made man in His likeness, so that basically the nature of God must be the character of everyone. Jesus accepted this and prayed that his followers might know that holiness, the purity of immortality, is forever reflected in man — unassailable, untemptable, indestructible, supreme. This is fact, both of man's origin and of his continuity.

It would almost seem as though this majesty of man had been forgotten, or had become disassociated from his present existence. But this does not alter the glory of the changeless fact, recognition and acceptance of which, cause it to begin to spring into expression. No quality of Deity can be singled out as being impossible for the reflection of God to express at any time or anywhere. Always and everywhere man is the complete expression of God's being. Holiness, the evidence of his identity as the son of God, is the permeating condition of his selfhood.

As in the days of Jesus' ministry, so now, error would attempt through various ideologies to deny God, to erase all sense of God from human consciousness. Coupled with this effort is the intent to blot out the recognition of holiness in man. This plan, if it

could, would dispose of that nature of man which does not respond to evil and so deprive it of seeming expression and power. Only the belief of the absence of holiness gives opportunity for the belief in sin. All sense of holiness as currently nonexistent, unattainable, or even undesirable is the suggestion of animal magnetism put forth to leave the field to the beliefs of all evil. But the attributes of God are eternally active in man through divine impulsion.

Mary Baker Eddy, the author of the textbook of Christian Science, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, refers in different passages to the freedom of holiness. She indicates that this is freedom from suppositional original sin, inherited or personal sin, sins of others, bodily sin, sins of the past or present. Such freedom indicates the state of mind that is purely spiritual, the state of substance that is satisfied completeness, the state of being that is uninhibited goodness. Since this is the atmosphere in which man unfolds forever, spiritual existence with its purity and grandeur is his normal habitat. It is possible, nay it is Biblical prophecy, that with the coming of the Comforter, divine Science, all humanity will so understand and possess this truth of man's coexistence with God and likeness to God, that holiness will walk the earth again and sweep sin into oblivion.

An incident in the life of Christ Jesus justifies the foregoing statements. In the Gospel of Mark we read of a man who had an unclean spirit, or evil sense, that exercised cruel control over him. He was in a synagogue where the Master was discoursing to the temple gathering. Doubtless the man had been many times in the synagogue where the priests, who were deemed the holy men, ministered to the people. But the evil spirit had never been touched by them so far as the record shows. As the Master spoke, the error cried out, begging to be let alone and not destroyed. Jesus had not even addressed it to handle it openly; yet it knew that its end had come, for these are the words that came from the man's mouth: "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." It was as though the evil had said: "Here is true holiness that can speak with authority and command me to be gone, and I cannot resist. Here is the understanding of my powerlessness and nothingness." The evil spirit was cast out. Later in the day, many that were bound by their beliefs in evil came to him and were delivered from their slavery to sin and disease. Thus the Master proclaimed and revealed for all time the power of holiness with men.

The true idea of holiness is the eradicator of belief in evil. Then it is vital that men become more familiar with this term. It cannot rightly be considered as a material condition, a degree of asceticism, or an acquired human attitude. Inspired thought

understands this expression to mean divine, intrinsic quality of God, Being. The holiness of Spirit is the only holiness there is; matter never possesses it. It is the impregnable nature of the Mind, Life, and substance from which man draws his individuality. Holiness then is not a weak, vacillating human element, but is the stronghold of man's existence, his inherent right and heavenly harmony. His reflected holiness as the son of God keeps him at the throne of God. "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine."

Today through both ancient and modern methods there is still carried on the false education that man is material, that he has freedom to sin, and that there are endless ways through which to sin. This inevitably leads to the false conclusion that man is a sinner, the victim either of a sense of pleasure in sin or of belief in a power of sin. Christian Science has come to declare the opposite of this mistaken view of man. It reiterates and proves in increasing degree that man still is, and always will be, the son of God, free-born: created free from mortality, from knowledge of evil, inheritance of it, response to it, or association with it throughout the eons of his existence. Therefore man, the masterpiece of God's work, could never know serfdom to vice, fear, disease, flesh, false habits, or material circumstances. He is never a slave to anything within or without himself. Freeborn in element, essence, nature, and individuality, he is subordinate only to his creator. This subordinacy to God, good, is not that of a slave, but of a son. Man's senses are forever drinking in the pure divinity of Life.

Holiness has no infirmity or affinity for evil. Because of this nature, evil despises it, denies it, ridicules it, and seems to do all it can to keep it unknown, unclaimed, unloved, and un-lived in human experience. However, since the advent of Christian Science, it is impossible to keep the indwelling essence of Life hidden from mankind. That which permeates the elements, functions, and formations of God's creation is revealed through the Science that explains man's existence as the offspring of God, continually worshipping God in the glory of holiness. To every listening ear comes the message from divine Love that the place where each one stands is holy ground — holy not only because God is there, but also because man in His likeness is there.

In connection with this statement, it is interesting to recall the experience of the Hebrew captives in the fiery furnace. When the king who had commanded that these men should be cast into the flames after they had been bound, saw that they had received no harm, he cried out, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." The holiness of man was acknowledged as the deliverer from flames of hate, cruelty, persecution. Mrs. Eddy

writes of this experience in Science and Health: "Holy inspiration has created states of mind which have been able to nullify the action of the flames, as in the Bible case of the three young Hebrew captives, cast into the Babylonian furnace; while an opposite mental state might produce spontaneous combustion." The understanding of man's Godlikeness now, as then, can be the means of deliverance from the modern furnaces of hatred fired by the inhumanity of men.

Holiness is not susceptible to mental malpractice, hypnotism, or occultism. It cannot be dissipated by aggressive suggestion or emasculated by animal magnetism. Holiness never yields its sovereignty or lowers its standard. Its purifying flames consume the pitiful darkness of evil, leaving no mist of ignorance or fear to hide the presence of man in his primal purity. This quality of Being is never put into the keeping of human consciousness, but guards humanity by night and day, leading it to spiritual heights of freedom. Holiness is abroad through all the world, publishing its presence, knowing no conflict, but rather functioning to the fulfillment of divine purpose, as inseparable from man as from God. Wherever the belief in evil has been accepted, there Christian Science is heralding the holiness of Life.

Jesus revealed the holy place of the Most High as the infinite coexistence of God and man, which forever shuts out evil from reality. He also taught that men were free everywhere to enter into the holiest, the consciousness of man's Godlikeness in the very bosom of the Father. Man cannot depart from holiness, because it abides at the center and circumference of his being, filling his substance as elemental nature, permeating his life as the urge of his selfhood, and causing him to be sensible of his relationship to Spirit alone. In striking contrast with these truths, materialism argues that holiness cannot be lived in government halls, in world marts, in public schools, in Army life, or in society. But it would claim that sin can operate in all these areas of daily experience. It would continue to define the only place of holiness as behind the veil in the recesses of the temple. But the remembrance that Christ Jesus lived holiness in all the situations of his thirty-odd years of abiding with mankind rebukes the claim of mortal sense and reminds his followers that the things he did, he said they could and should do also. To accept any lesser idea of the divine nature would be to deny the infinitude of God and His reflection. These are times in which either the fact of universal holiness or the falsity of so-called world-wide evil must withdraw, because they cannot dwell together. Is there any question as to which will yield?

The healing work of Christian Science declares the endless expansion of the Master's power to take away the false beliefs, the sins, of the world. This power is the mercy of

God abroad among all nations. Its law of emancipation for the sin-sick, for the seemingly helpless and hopeless, is unlimited. Christian Science will not ignore one human cry for help, but will set free every captive sense. It is the efficacy of Christ, which shows that evil has never known man as its audience, or victim, and that man has never known an enemy. He is still unfallen, free, and pure. "He that is holy, let him be holy still."

Belief in human goodness is not adequate to handle belief in the phases of sin presented to men today. Christ Jesus declared that the only goodness there is, is the goodness of God, the impersonal holiness of Life. It is not enough that Christians become better human beings as time goes on. It is essential that they exercise their freedom to enter into the realm of God, to put on the garment of holiness, to live more and more as the Master taught. They can no longer stand at the portal of spiritual existence, where they have a lovely view of the Life divine, where they may even catch the fragrance of immortality, but not advance over the threshold.

The understanding of Truth does not bring its followers to the entrance of the realm of God to let them settle there, content with a dual existence—acknowledging Spirit but clinging to matter — but it has made them free to enter the realm of holy consciousness, and it impels that entrance. Against this irresistible unfoldment the so-called gates of hell cannot prevail. The emancipation proclamation of Christian Science to the citizens of the world is that they are free to experience progressively the glorious liberty of man as the son of God, because man's true being is eternally one with God. Men's horizons are within themselves, expanding according to the unfolding of spiritual consciousness. In every land, across all seas, through farthest reaches of the clouds, all men may hear the voice of eternal Love saying to them that their sins are forgiven, and in the words of Isaiah declaring, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord [holiness] is risen upon thee." The purging that pours from transcendent holiness leaves only that which is born of God. So man's divine identity, forever reigning at the right hand of the Father, appears never to disappear.

MARY BAKER EDDY HER FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

Century has followed century nineteen times since the man of Nazareth uttered holy words which he prophesied would never pass away. They have hung in the thoughts of men like music of the spheres. They have been heard with awe and reverence, but their vast Science has remained to be discovered in this age.

True prophecy bears the seed of fulfillment which matures in appointed time. Isaiah foretold the coming of Christ Jesus, which occurred about seven hundred years later. The

prophecy of the Master to St. John, recorded in the twelfth chapter of Revelation, augured further coming of the impersonal Christ, Truth, in its full import. The time appointed for this sacred event arrived in the nineteenth century when the Christ Science was revealed. Someone had to be the agent for this fulfillment of revelation; someone who would be chosen out of all the people on earth, and at a time when the passing years would compel men to exchange the material sense of universe for the spiritual idea of creation. Such a consciousness would have to be prepared to listen to God, to hear and understand the wisdom of the eternal, to be able to transcribe the message for all to read, and then to substantiate what was heard by proofs of Christian healing. From the time of the awesome discovery, there could be no turning back, no faltering, no discouragement, no doubting, no evasion of divine demands, no lapse of self-requirement to measure up to duties waiting. The messenger could not stop until the journey of delivery to humanity was accomplished so that Truth, forever unchanged, would be learned and lived by all men. In the year 1866, she who is known throughout the world as Mary Baker Eddy, stood at the threshold of the infinite and looked upon spiritual existence. It was not viewed as a distant possibility, but as the forever and only reality of being. Creational cause was seen to be Mind, Principle, Love, Spirit, and all that emanated from it as partaking of the divine essence and nature. The searching of matter for wisdom of Life could no longer be pursued. The pathway of understanding lay in the realm of Spirit alone. A paragraph in the textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mrs. Eddy, graphically describes her thought: "The compounded minerals or aggregated substances composing the earth, the relations which constituent masses hold to each other, the magnitudes, distances, and revolutions of the celestial bodies, are of no real importance, when we remember that they all must give place to the spiritual fact by the translation of man and the universe back into Spirit. In proportion as this is done, man and the universe will be found harmonious and eternal."

These words indicate the possession of a spiritual strength which carried her thought beyond the realm of matter and held it fixed on spirituality till the stupendous reception of divine Science was accomplished. This strength also enforced obedience of the body to spiritual law so that years of physical frailty gave way to good health; a lifetime trust in God unfolded into concrete experience of holy presence and power.

With every period of Truth's appearing to Mrs. Eddy, the seeming world of materialism grew fainter and the spiritual creation clearer until the absolute

statement of the nothingness of mortality and the allness of divine existence could be declared. The functioning of Life and its infinite manifestation was seen to be divine Science. Was not this the fulfillment of the saying of Jesus that "when ... the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth"? For Science both declares and demonstrates the omnipotence of divine Principle, God.

Mrs. Eddy was nursed with Biblical prophecies and reared on them. The Scriptures stimulated in her the conviction that the time had come for the ancient words of eternal Truth to be better known as the present facts of existence. In childhood she experienced healing from a severe fever through prayer. Again she heard, as had Samuel, a sacred voice calling her and had answered, as did he, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." Gradually the years brought unmistakable proofs of her conviction until she was raised from a deathbed through acceptance of the account of Jesus' healing of the palsied man told in the ninth chapter of Matthew. Thereafter unfolded the final revelation of the prophetic words of Scriptural truth as the Science of eternal Life.

The unfolding of the spiritual vision humbles the human. The magnitude and glory of divine being silence personal sense and still human ambition. This leaves no room for aught besides the hunger to know more of man in the likeness of God. The human cannot prevent the divine appearing, but is embraced in its imperative tenderness until finally yielding to Truth forever. Human humility must be in proportion to divine understanding. The Leader of Christian Science is a rare example of this truism.

In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy states, "In divine revelation, material and corporeal selfhood disappear, and the spiritual idea is understood." She continues, "The woman in the Apocalypse symbolizes generic man, the spiritual idea of God; she illustrates the coincidence of God and man as the divine Principle and divine idea." This explanation of St. John's figure of speech gives to her who was divinely illumined to perceive it a place of impressive import in prophetic history. She touched the inner substance that had formed the holy utterances of apostles, prophets, and the master Metaphysician, Christ Jesus. She sensed the plan of Principle for its ever enduring creation. She marveled at the beauty of man in the likeness of God.

This great Christian did not so much behold through effect the divine cause as the cause emitting its self-expression. Her realization started with the primary and so naturally understood the secondary. The spiritual thread out of which was woven the indestructible fabric of prophetic wisdom throughout the Bible times was put in her hands that she might weave the final pattern of revelation.

The maturing concept of true womanhood appears in the last chapter of Proverbs. Isaiah beheld the achievement of womanhood's divinely bestowed purpose as recorded in the fifty-fourth chapter of his Bible record. Later St. John saw the spiritual idea of womanhood bringing forth the understanding of God, which was to rule all men with omnipotence. This sequence has continued its unfoldment until the advent of Christian Science through Mrs. Eddy's reflection of Truth. Now her works of revelation and establishment of Christian healing through a worldwide religious movement are praising her in the gates of many nations.

Lest men attribute her message to merely personal, religious fervor, Mrs. Eddy informed the world that she was a scribe under orders, adding, "And who can refrain from transcribing what God indicts, and ought not that one take the cup, drink all of it, and give thanks?" (Miscellaneous Writings) What God indicted could only be further fulfillment of His Word to Biblical seers, for God is changeless Truth.

There have been prophet-shepherds and kings: those who were leaders of nations and wanderers in the desert: inspired men and women. Such unique prerogative did not cease with ancient people, but persists and was exercised by Mrs. Eddy under divine direction for the sake of humanity's final progress from sense to Soul. Through her holy task the glory of God draws nearer, and its deliverance of men from every seeming form of evil goes on through scientific spiritual healing in the way the Master taught. The educated beliefs of sin and disease are losing their hold, and the gates of death cannot forever swing shut on hinges of ignorance and fear, but are breaking under pressure of the power of resurrection understood.

The path of fulfillment of prophecy is a rugged one, for it winds through inherited and entrenched human belief, touching the areas of superstition and education and leading ever beyond them to the realm of revelation. With the giving to the world the message of Christian Science, the laws of universal Love, came religious, medical, and philosophical opposition. Misrepresentation, criticism, and ridicule made the way harder for this lone woman. But the wonder of her pilgrimage shod her feet with strength and filled her thought with radiance. Every obstacle was overcome. She was not halted by suffering, poverty, or attempts to harm her and her work, but persisted under the shelter of divine care until her mission was completed and the world was feeling the influence of her life task.

One hundred years have passed since the promised coming of "the Spirit of truth." During this time men have been roused to the realization that God's Word needs no

adjuncts of robe, ceremony, or ritual to recommend it to humanity. Within itself is the compelling vitality of awesome Truth with which to bless and heal. Christian Science relieves the concept of religion of human nonessentials and quickens it with divinity's essence. It has turned the student of the cosmos from physics to metaphysics, the sufferer from drugs to prayer, the evildoer from crime to the Love that is divine Principle. Who can measure the further glory of this resistless tide!

As God's Word continues to unfold immortality to men, it will show the scope of Mrs. Eddy's achievement. It will release the full glory of the Master's life and dispel forever the clouds of material sense.

The spiritual translation of the Scriptures as given in Christian Science will transmute the earthbound concept of existence into experience of man as the son of God.

Through her inspired illumination thrown upon the testimony of Christ Jesus and of the prophets, Mrs. Eddy takes her revered place in the forefront of the seers of the ages. Her work has formed a new epoch in the understanding and practice of the Word of God. St. John's disclosure of holy events, which would embrace all nations in the divine order, is being fulfilled through Christian Science. The centuries are breaking. Mankind is waking.

As the "was and is and shall be" of prophecy and fulfillment appeared to Mrs. Eddy, they illustrated not so much development of time as panorama of eternity. Of this all-embracing light, she states in *Miscellaneous Writings*. "Christian Science is more than a prophet or a prophecy: it presents not words alone, but works, — the daily demonstration of Truth and Love." Here is part of the glory of her contribution to Christianity, her presentation of the coincidence of divine promise and achievement. If the manifestation did not eternally exist, the message would not be true. As humanity progressively accepts infinite reality, the past, present, and future into the eternal now, preaching is confirmed with practice, hope reaches its goal, and faith unfolds into scientific, spiritual understanding. Prophecy and fulfillment no longer seem divorced by time but united by divine Science. "For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." (Psalms)

HOSTS OF HEAVEN

Security is essential to the progress of nations as well as of individuals. This security is dependable only when it is based upon divine power. The foe in ambush, threatening the safety of the world, in every case is the carnal mind. Its suppositional product, matter, in any form, could hardly be the means of routing or of overcoming the enemy.

Divinity is the only conqueror of carnality; and its help is available for men in the form of spiritual understanding, which enables them to detect the foe, to thwart and to eliminate it. Spiritual ideas are the hosts of the Lord which are encamped round about all people, and they are adequate to defend the whole human race from evil suggestions, impulses, actions, and consequences. Defending they also deliver, and delivering they establish the freedom and peace of God upon earth.

Mrs. Eddy writes that "Christianity is ever storming sin in its citadels, blessing the poor in spirit and keeping peace with God." {Message to The Mother Church for 1901} Spiritual ideas are an irresistible army moving in holy fulfillment to set free the captives of mortal sense, to deliver every man into the freedom of the sons of God, to restore, and not to destroy. Pressing beyond the entanglements and barriers of mortal arguments and conclusions, divine ideas find lodgment in the hearts of men. With tender mercy, the might of gentleness and trenchant persistence, this host wins its way, establishes its victories over carnal sense, and renders unto God the things that belong to God.

Divine ideas are coincidently an army of defense and of occupation, for as they remove false beliefs from human consciousness they take possession of it, abide with men and govern them. Wherever human thought entertains divine ideas it is enlightened enriched, and, step by step, liberated from struggle. The army of the Lord brings with it the resources of infinite Love, the opportunities of heaven, and the reign of harmony. Humanity is safe in its presence and uplifted by its strength, for the heavenly host comes to end the usurpation of error and to establish assurance in the ever-presence of good, God.

Divine ideas are an army of defense in the heavens above, and on the earth, and in the waters below the earth. They are throughout all space, and are able to annul every belief of danger, disaster, material elements and forces, evil inventions, and mortal laws; for these have no reality in Truth, and must always yield when the scientific facts of God's universe are understood and applied in human thought and action. Jesus proved all this in his experience, giving us sufficient evidence of its truth to sustain men in their earnest efforts to depend upon divine help in time of great need. Mrs. Eddy states that our spiritual armament is "a cover and a defense adapted to all men, all nations, all times, climes, and races." (Miscellany)

This universal abiding host of divine ideas foments no war and is a standing army that is no tax on the nations. Burdens are lifted by entertaining these defenders. The greater our recognition of this army, the less is the occasion for war. It is a host which does not keep a foe in abeyance, but demonstrates the unreality of foes. This

army knows no opposer, wages no conflict, wields no aggression. It unfolds and maintains the kingdom of heaven among men. It is a ministering host of God-directed thoughts, aiding, protecting, and delivering mankind.

Fear and insecurity are found only where there is belief in the reality and power of an enemy. As it is realized that spiritual ideas keep watch over men, mortal mind can assume no disguise of moral or political necessity, or of mass enmity behind which it can hide to foment anxiety or destruction. The penetrating light of divine wisdom pierces the deceit of mortal excuse, exposes the foe as mortal mind rather than people or governments, and counteracts the mesmerism of fear, saves men and nations from becoming agents or victims of annihilation, by reducing the foe to nothingness.

In Science and Health we find as part of the definition of "Jacob" the following: "Inspiration; the revelation of Science, in which the so-called material senses yield to the spiritual sense of Life and Love." And in Jeremiah we read, "Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; and with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider;... with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers." These quotations indicate the disappearance of ruling material beliefs before divine ideas, whereby mankind is blessed. It is this removal of false, finite beliefs, not of persons and governments, which aids in the revealing of God's kingdom on earth. Hence the overcoming of the carnal mind. The battle of the Lord is the acceptance of the truth of God and man in human thought, before which false beliefs necessarily yield.

Our Leader writes in Science and Health: "The Christian Scientist has enlisted to lessen evil, disease, and death; and he will overcome them by understanding their nothingness and the allness of God, or good." The words "enlisted to lessen evil" indicate an active and willing service to consistently overcome mortal mind in all its phases. And what part does the enlisted one play in the advancement of spiritual understanding in human thought? Is it not his obligation to search diligently for Truth, to endeavor earnestly to understand it, and devoutly to practice it in daily life, so far as he is able? This augments spiritual service and disposes of falsity, until the kingdoms of this earth are manifestly the kingdom of divine Mind. If all who take the name of Christian Scientist unselfishly unite in this active service, a mighty impetus will be given to the deliverance of the human race from fear and bondage.

To all Christian Scientists have been born ideas of God. These ideas having unfolded in the thoughts and lives of many are mighty to deliver beyond the

individual need. The faithful Christian Scientist may effectively apply them in his mental work today to national and international affairs, thus serving at the front of the world's struggle. Such service does not subject him to deceit, treachery, cruelty, injury, or death. The presence of divine ideas with him is a complete defense, for they are immutable and immortal, round about those who put their trust in God. There is peace and dominion every day in the marching army of Truth, which appears more radiant, beautiful, strong, and holy after every encounter with false belief. He who fails to use his God-given ideas in active service for others may find that he will lose them, and his mental house become desolate.

To shelter false beliefs, when one knows the difference between them and right ideas, is to be a traitor to Truth, to harbor the enemy. This is not a safe position to maintain, or a good one. Even though we fly the flag of pretense in our lives to hide the presence of wrong motives and acts, the hosts of Truth will search the innermost recesses of our hearts, leaving there no hiding place for error, or for thoughts deserting the ranks of righteousness. Love will compel us all to forsake that which would betray us into destruction, and will bring us all into willing allegiance to divine Principle. Through such allegiance we are fitted to receive the blessings of immortality and to abide in the peace ushered in by spiritual ideas.

Divine ideas come from God to men. They move to the defense of human consciousness wherever they are needed. The eagerness and love with which we let them send us about the Father's business are the music to which they march on earth. Such music replaces the noise of strife, hushes the clamoring of sin, wakes the sleepers from material dreaming, and calls into expression the reign of reality. As unselfed love keeps step with the hosts of Mind, these, His ideas, take possession of earth.

As God's ideas appear among men they form a nation of the spiritually minded. This is the nation that is born of faith and understanding. It is the nation that will endure on the earth until absolute Life, which is God, is fully demonstrated. Through the nation of the spiritually-minded are expressed wisdom and peace, health, power, safety, and progress, for they are consciously one with God, and no evil shall be able to stand against them. This nation will increase until all humanity understands God and yields, through spiritual ascension, to divine allness. Such expansion is not territorial, but spiritually mental. There enters into it no element of aggression or injustice. This expansion is not dangerous for any, but good for all, for it is not accomplished by material accretion, but through divine unfoldment.

The nation of the spiritually minded knows no borderlines, and reaches beyond horizons. The human race will be assimilated into this nation more quickly as it ceases to consider itself in terms of antagonistic groups whose problems can be solved only by internecine conflict, and unites to recognize and face the one foe, mortal mind, with the power of spiritual understanding and demonstration. This war, which is even now being waged, is one in which the human race will not be exterminated by evil, but delivered from the beliefs of materiality by the army of the Lord. When it is realized that the hosts of divine ideas are at once the armor of defense and deliverance for each and all, there will be no further difficulty about parity of defense among the nations. God's ideas will unfold to all men the presence of the kingdom of heaven and of man as the infinite manifestation of divine Mind. They will end forever the belief in a power opposed to God and will reveal peace established upon earth as in heaven."And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud of smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: upon all for the glory shall be a defense."

THE "RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE"

The statesmen of the world are searching for means whereby to cure the misery of the nations. They are experimenting with civic theories, hoping for satisfactory results from untested programs. They are bringing to bear upon national ills the utmost efforts of human mercy. Yet these efforts are not sufficient to deliver a desperate world from tragedy. Spiritual vision is needed, for it is stated in Holy Writ that without such help people perish.

As present day planners seek inspiration from the Bible, they will find vital aid in the words of St. John, words which augur heavenly help from men in every age. In the last chapter of Revelation, St. John writes that he received prophetic sight of "a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there a tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Metaphysical explanations of the word "river," which aids in understanding of St. John's reference, is given in the "Glossary" of Science and Health, wherein Mary Baker Eddy defines in part the Euphrates, the great river mentioned in Genesis, as "Divine Science encompassing the universe and man." Divine Science issues "out of the throne of God and of the Lamb," out of the supreme authority of infinite Mind and its ideas. It flows not through lands, but through ages. Its waters are

unadulterated by human theories, unpolluted by mortal tendencies. They are crystal-clear with spiritual elements, entirely free from the silt of materiality. Only out of such waters can come the divine remedy for the nations' ills that St. John visioned.

The waters of this mighty river of Life, of divine Science, are never stagnant, nor turbulent. Their course is set and maintained by universal laws of Love. Their tides flow throughout the universe, tides of Truth, not of error, sweeping the world; tides of Truth, not of war, pestilence, and famine; tides of Truth, not destruction; tides that bring to every identity the essence of immortality. Upon these never-ebbing tides go no stately ships, but divine ideas bear the benisons of God upon "the river of His pleasures." (See The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany 149:9, and Pulpit and Press 3:20.)

The river of Life is "the river of His pleasures" to all nations. Divine Science brings to humanity the peace of heaven, the joys of Soul, the riches of Spirit, the safety of immortality. The river's flowing cannot be stopped or deflected. Throughout all space and time it spreads the freshness and fairness of divine existence. As these healing waters touch the shores of national thought, they heal the sores of bitterness, assuage the fevers of fear, take away the beliefs of race hatred, purge out the elements of suspicion and deception, lay bare the hiding places of iniquity. Wherever the waters of divine Science come, they purify and renew human consciousness, causing deliverance from the belief in evil to be accomplished by omnipotent Love and the order of divine government to appear.

The river of divine Science builds no sand bars of false doctrines whereon may be wrecked individual or national progress. It carries within its depths no snags of compromise to endanger the voyage of the seeker after reality. River snags may appear quite harmless to the inexperienced traveler — just the limb of a tree floating by. But a pilot knows that beneath the surface may extend the trunk or roots of a tree which, if struck, could injure or sink a vessel. The river of divine Science runs a free and mighty tributary of infinite Love.

The river of Life does not struggle against obstructions. It rises to overflow them and pursue its majestic way. At a certain bend in a great river there are falls which usually necessitate the passage of vessels through locks at that point. But during flood tide the waters below the falls rise to the level of the falls. Then a vessel can move directly over the falls, which are no longer an obstruction to the passage. The waters of the river of Life are always at full tide. It is safe to navigate where the

waters are deep, where divine Science floods our thoughts and life. It is dangerous to attempt the passage of shallow waters, to try to progress with only a smattering of interest in Truth.

Since divine Science is the majestic river of eternal Life, it cannot be compelled to flow through channels of men's making. It cannot be forced to run through ways of ungoverned will, mad ambition, or personal outlining. But it will bear men and nations through its God-made channels of spiritual purpose, bringing them past the limitations of human beliefs into the freedom of divine events. It will not let men and nations set the pace of progress, but moves them with the power of divine impulsion safely and surely to the goal of understood spiritual existence.

The waters of divine Science, flowing down the centuries, are reaching widespread shores of human thought. Their flood is sweeping away every refuge of lies whither the waters of Truth come. As they reach the thought of the despot, they render asunder his bulwark of lies, so that it collapses and drifts into oblivion. They shatter his defenses of false authority. They thunder the law of God against his littleness and take away his erstwhile kingdom. Then when the last vestige of trust in evil is swept away by the mighty baptism of the river, human character yields to the salvation of divine Science and regeneration begins.

As the river of divine Science reaches the thought of the hypnotist, it undermines the foundation of his belief in many minds. It breaks up his flimsy structure of faith in a mental power apart from God and carries away the straws of that structure — ignorance, dishonesty, malice aforethought, and deception. It sweeps such human consciousness clean of mental driftwood, and waters its waste places of thought. Then begins to spring up by the edges of the river the tree of Life, which will remain forever because the river never ceases to nourish its roots.

The waters of the river of Life are reaching into the dark recesses of pagan empiricism. Their tides of Truth are sweeping the caverns of so-called mortal mind and extracting from them the false beliefs of many gods. The flood tide of the river cannot be stopped. Nothing false in its way can escape it. The false is torn away, its every hold unclasped, its every chamber overflowed. Every defense against Truth crumbles and breaks away, leaving error exposed to the action of divine Science. Evil cannot erect a barrier against the tide of Love's salvation; it cannot hold a hiding place against the current of Truth. All human consciousness touched by Truth is cleansed of error, and fresh leaves of understanding, the leaves that are for the healing of the nations, spring into birth.

As the life currents of a nation's citizens are changed by the river of Truth so that they run in channels of hope instead of despair, in ways of spiritual progress instead of mortal defeat, new vigor comes to the nation. A condition of security spreads throughout its borders, deeper obedience to God brings peace of living, and the devastation of war gives place to signs of spiritual blessings. The farmer may look away from his wasted fields and find in divine Science knowledge of the plant that grows because of God's law rather than because of soil condition. Homeless ones may turn from ruins and learn of their dwelling not made, or destroyed, with hands, wherein they may abide under the shelter of divine Love forever.

The merchant may find that although the barter of things material has been reduced to the minimum, the opportunities to be about his Father's business have increased a thousand fold. Never were justice, patience, courage, spiritual vision, divine insight, and brotherly consideration more in demand. And the river of Life brings them in infinite quantity to destitute humanity.

The ravages of war may seem to have rendered mere legal knowledge of small avail in the settlement of national difficulties. But God's law, revealed to receptive thought through divine Science, are found applicable to every human need and able to adjust every situation with equity. In Miscellany we read, "It is 'a consummation devoutly to be wished' that all nations shall speedily learn and practice the intermediate line of justice between the classes and masses of mankind, and thus exemplify in all things the universal equity of Christianity."

Some years ago there was a thriving city located on the banks of a great river. Travelers came by steamer to trade her markets, her docks received valuable cargoes, businesses flourished in her streets, and homes spread their acres miles behind the water's edge. Then the course of the river changed and the city did not move with it. As time passed by the city became shrunken, dilapidated in parts, inert, almost forgotten. Finally, it was spoken of only as a place that used to be a prosperous city on the river. To move with the course of divine Science, to be mentally where the waters of understanding flow, is to live and prosper, to forsake the course of Truth, or to let it pass us by, is a sorrowful experience.

The strong currents of the river of divine Science are flowing everywhere. They cannot be pent up. They do not wait for human outlining. They are broad through all the world of thought. They are changing the mental landscape. Old landmarks set by hierarchies, whereby to steer humanity's course onward, are of little use on the river of Life, of divine Science. Here, Mrs. Eddy says, the Bible is the chart,

and buoys of Truth mark the course. The channels of fanaticism, ancient and modern sensuous religions, ascetic cults and popular pious impositions, contain no trickle of the river of Truth. Divine Science flows not through one of these channels, but leaves them empty and dried. The tree of Life does not grow upon their banks, and no leaves of healing for the nations are found there. Their commerce is cut off, and no one buys their merchandise any more.

In the years which are just ahead, from one end of the earth to the other, building will begin — the rebuilding of lives, families, homes, occupations, professions, loyalties, friendships, brotherhood; the reconstruction of communities, the renewing of national life, the rebuilding of trade. It will be a time in which the course of progress and justice cannot be based upon former classifications, old prejudices, or national characteristics. Former standards of procedure are outmoded; governments are in flux; nations must co-operate to exist; peace must be worldwide. Humanity has been leveled, altered, and interrelated.

It is the privilege of every Christian Scientist to work and pray that the building and journeying of all men in this reconstruction period may be where the river of divine Science flows, where spiritual understanding charts the way, and where every moment brings them nearer to recognized existence as sons of God. The mingling of all the peoples of earth will demand unity of comprehension and action. Divine Science is capable of coping with such fusion of divergent elements and quickening it so spiritual accomplishment, tides of Truth do not form boundaries of differences between men or nations, but sweep away borderlines of belief, habit, and education, and promote the harmonious progress of all mankind.

The ties of Truth are flowing to bring all men the recognition of the reign of spiritual peace which has been shaken or overthrown. Perchance the little earthly kingdoms of men have been swept away — their homes, their communities, even their countries. Perchance every human opportunity to outline or control their experiences has been shattered. But divine Science brings to them the comforting and strengthening realization that he who accepts its teachings is daily being delivered from the claims of evil, and that the current of his life is impelled and directed by God. (See *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 19.) It is a good and profitable thing for all men to feel their roots are no longer cramped and withered in materiality's barrenness, but free to spread beside the waters of eternal Truth and drink in their life-giving essence of immortal harmony.

The river of divine Science is full, deep, and wide. Its force is resistless and measureless. Great rivers fed by a permanent supply can maintain their flow across desert regions. So divine Science, issuing out of the source of infinite good, is not stopped by the desert of human ignorance, but pursues its way to every individual and nation, bringing to each one the refreshing waters of the knowledge of eternal Life.

As long as a river is cutting a channel it will deepen more rapidly than it will widen, prior to spreading over its fertile valleys. As long as men let Science cut away every mistaken, mortal sense of human thought, it will deepen their experiences and prepare them to bring forth abundant fruitage of healing with spiritual unfoldment. Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*: "The calm, strong currents of true spirituality, the manifestations of which are health, purity, and self-immolation, must deepen human experience, until the beliefs of material existence are seen to be a bald imposition, and sin, disease, and death give everlasting place to the scientific demonstration of divine Spirit and to God's spiritual, perfect man."

There is a place where a great river makes a loop which takes ten hours to navigate upstream. It is only about a mile across the land at the base of the loop. A river pilot was asked why there was not a shortcut made for the river across the loop's base. The reply was that it was dangerous to try to change the course of a strong river. Nothing deliberate, or involuntary, can interfere with the course of divine Science, which defines and keeps its own way of salvation flowing to every nation. Alternate narrow stretches and expansions in a river prevent destructible floods. So Science, keeping the straight and narrow way of absolute Truth, yet spreading to all mankind, has no destructive element in its flowing. It can do no harm to any living thing. Its velocity is always redemptive.

A mighty river comes out of heights and depths, out of forces and ages. Unmeasured chambers and uncounted treasures lie within its waters. Its strength moves in silent majesty. Its movement is continuous; it teems with action and progress. So the river of water of Life, the river of divine Science, flows from the height and depth of infinite Love, from the sanctuary of God. It is timeless, moving without ceasing in endless unfoldment. In its course are vast reaches of divine reality and wealth of understanding. The deeper it runs in men's experiences, the swifter are they carried forward in their journey from sense to Soul.

The whole river of divine Science is alive with the Father's business. Wherever it may seem that the sand of time has buried all that was finest and best in the world, there

shall be resurrection, for everything shall live whithersoever the river comes. Evidences of unalterable spiritual reality appear and are the leaves for the succor of the nations.

SUFFICIENCY

The only cause — God — which has produced the spiritual universe, must have infinite resources for the eternal existence of its perfect work, laws for its continual government, power everlastingly to perpetuate it. This cause must be inseparable from its product, infinitely intelligent concerning it, and flawless in the maintenance of it. There must be perfection, also, of effect, if there is to be a perfect whole. Moreover, perpetuity of creation implies the orderly control of undeviating divine Principle, God.

Well may we stand in awe before the majesty of divine Principle, the perfect One, within whom "... is every embodiment of Life and Mind," all law, action, and accomplishment. All the qualities of perfection are expressed throughout God's creation. Everywhere divinity's boundless quantity is available and God's impartial law operative.

This cause, which is the Principle of all real manifestation, forms only perfect identities. With undeviating constancy, it imparts to these identities the qualities of divinity, and governs their individual and universal expression. Sufficiency of supply is an eternal quality of God, and this quality is available to all creation at all times. Divine qualities cannot be accumulated or stored by creation, but they are being constantly expressed. Sufficiency of resources is maintained throughout God's universe by the operation of divine law, and so is present and permanent everywhere. Sufficiency of supply is not cumulative; rather is it being constantly unfolded. Where the source is infinite there is continuous impartation, oneness of cause and effect, and no need for accumulation. If in the universe of God's creating it were necessary for any part of this creation to accumulate some of the qualities, or quantity, of true substance, it would imply the possibility of a time when there might be an absence of substance, or a stoppage of its functioning, against which creation must provide. But such is unthinkable, impossible!

Divine Principle possesses infinite spiritual ideas, whereby it is abundantly able to manifest perfect harmony. All the ideas in the spiritual universe declare the control of divinity. In God's plan, man, whether considered individually or collectively, cannot accumulate or corner any quantity of substance. He can neither manage nor mismanage it. He can only express and be blessed by it. So man lives, not to accumulate supply,

but forever to express its omnipresent sufficiency. Divine Science interprets through all creation the ever-presence of perfect supply and perfect continuity of existence.

Spirit enables all real identities to live within Spirit's resources, which are infinite. No part of God's creation can ever come to a situation in which there is lack. This truth is provable by anyone who will accept it and lean wholly upon it. Humanity may claim this truth today and experience deliverance from its belief of burden by the realization and demonstration of it. The divine law of infinite sufficiency operates with scientific simplicity, so that the supplying of creation with constant harmony is never obstructed or involved. Hence, the individual divine right and liberty of action of each idea is forever intact. Awaking humanity, beholding these ways of God, loving and obeying them, begins to be blessed by them.

Error, lifting its voice in contradiction of Truth, erroneously says, "Accumulation is the only way whereby men can be saved from disaster. If they do not accumulate material possessions, they will be helpless, hopeless failures." But there are countless ways by which that which has been saved, can be utterly wiped out. What a person has saved may even become the very means of his downfall. Surely such arguments as these contain no indication of absolute law. They rather indicate that the struggle for material accumulation may be part of the belief of animal magnetism, which Mrs. Eddy describes as, "one belief preying upon another." Opposed to this false belief stands the heavenly order of universal care, namely, the divine unfoldment of exhaustless resources. God has unlimited resources for His entire universe, and divine Science maintains the reflection of these resources throughout creation.

The foregoing statements, however, offer no excuse for humanity to be careless, extravagant, or thoughtless about what is humanly necessary and right to have. On the contrary, Christian Science teaches the application of these spiritual truths in human life through the exercise of wisdom, economy, and thoughtful provision for all entrusted to us by human circumstances. Spiritual understanding renders human thought more foreseeing, more prudent, more resourceful and alert. It causes all that is humanly done in accord with divine law to prosper and abide so long as it is useful.

Right investment of one's means may be as necessary as the right care of one's clothes or one's home. But let us not put our trust in matter in any form or amount. Rather, let us administer wisely what comes to our hand and abide satisfied in the understanding that Spirit is man's only real source of supply. Man's coexistence with Spirit enables him to receive the comfort, freedom, and support of infinite resources. If our thinking is governed by spiritual truth, all that is part of our daily human affairs, whether animate or

inanimate, will be governed by divine law, and so will work together for good to those who love God — Spirit.

As humanity gathers the facts of divine Life through communion with the one Mind, and forsakes the beliefs of mortality, this process will preserve all that is useful and good in human experience, and will cause the evidence of good to abide and expand until there is no belief or appearance of lack left to deny the allness and omnipresence of good. We shall have far more to share by gaining spiritual understanding, and using it in demonstration, than we can possibly have by accumulating so-called matter.

Mrs. Eddy's life was a marvelous example of this truth. As she gave her whole life to the purpose of knowing God, for the sake of helping humanity, she became rich in spiritual substance; and this was necessarily outlined in her human condition. As she gained the treasure of divine wisdom, there accumulated a wealth of spiritual supply for her, and through her for the world. Mrs. Eddy writes in the textbook, "To calculate one's life-prospects from a material basis, would infringe upon spiritual law and misguide human hope." She has taught us by precept and practice that Mind alone is the Giver of all good to man. This spiritual fact is closely related to humanity's progress from sense to Soul.

Jesus had such a realization of immediate divine help available for present human need that he said: "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" May not this statement be taken as indicating that prayer to God, or the communing with the spiritual truths of being, is the means for humanity's deliverance from the sense of lack in every direction?

A familiar Bible story proves that the recognition of the spiritual law of divine substance, when applied in daily human life, solves its perplexing problems. It is the story of the widow and her sons and her pot of oil, which is told in II Kings 4: verses 1-7. Material sense, regarding the condition of poverty outlined in these verses, might have said, There are not enough resources in this family, so there must follow discord, disgrace, and sorrow. There is no solution for the problem. There has been no accumulation of matter, so there must be a time of punishment. Everything must express lack: the oil, lack of quantity; the woman, lack of faith and resources; the sons, lack of freedom; and the creditor, lack of payment.

But a prophet entered into the case. In the "Glossary" of Science and Health, "prophet" is defined as "a spiritual seer; disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth." Elisha, the prophet, looked at the widow's case through spiritual sense, and he must have seen sufficiency as a quality of ever-present Life. Immediately

the oil manifested sufficiency instead of limitation; the sons expressed assurance of freedom instead of fear of slavery; the creditor expressed satisfaction instead of deprivation; and the woman possessed further resources instead of poverty.

No time for the accumulation of matter was required. Mind was the multiplier, and sufficiency was made manifest even in the material realm, so-called. The false material sense gave way to the spiritual fact of Truth. Everything in the case, animate and inanimate, came into obedience to the law of God. Elisha's clear sense brought forth increased evidence of the exhaustless nature of true supply. He demonstrated the power of spiritual truth in the human problem. It is through such an example as this that thought is led to recognize, in every situation, that it is not the amount of material possessions which makes it possible for sufficiency to be expressed, but the understanding that sufficiency of good is a divine quality forever present and maintained by divine law; and this, in spite of how much, or how little, of matter seems to be present.

These truths are available for every human being to demonstrate. They can waken him to the realization that his situation is not hopeless, his burden not heavy, his poverty not real, his riches not uncertain, his possessions not fluctuating. In proportion as he understands and uses the spiritual facts of real substance, the good he gains is protected and preserved to him. Thus he will finally learn that God's divine method of impartation, and man's spiritual ability to receive what comes from God, is the law whereby creation remains perfect.

Thus, so-called human life will become an ever-increasing experience of awareness of the presence of divine truth. And soon there will begin to sing in the hearts of men the unbroken rhythm of the heavenly melody, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

THE DICTATORSHIP OF MIND

Christian Scientists are obedient to the laws of the lands in which they live. Mrs. Eddy enjoins her followers to submit to governmental decrees, even though these may not be consistent with their understanding of good government. Nevertheless, as followers of the master Christian, they are aware that perfect government exists in the kingdom of heaven, which he declared to be within man.

Although Christ Jesus may have seemed to some to possess the attributes of a dictator, a person invested with absolute power, yet he said, "I can of mine own self do nothing." Thus, he pointed unmistakably to the infinite Person, who is God, as the Supreme Ruler of the universe and the source of each man's intelligence and power. The unlimited

nature of divine Mind is continuously reflected by individual man, Mind's exact image; but Mind, not man, is the reigning power on earth as in heaven.

Christian Science has come to declare and to prove that all men have access to this one Mind, God; that they may govern themselves by obedience to this Mind; and that through reflection of the divine nature, they may reign in righteousness in their individual experiences. This teaching awakens men to recognize and claim their rights to know and do the truth, and so to overthrow the seeming rule of carnality in their lives. Thus each one becomes a true guardian of his own consciousness, admitting only such thoughts as come from God, and a true dictator to his own body, causing it to yield at all times to the law of God. We read in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: "Reflecting God's government, man is self-governed. When subordinate to the divine Spirit, man cannot be controlled by sin or death."

To make progress in this direction it is necessary for me to cease believing in minds many, presuming that one mind rules another mind; that one mind wars with and dominates other minds. It is also necessary for men to understand that all men are governed by the one Mind, infinite Love, whose law for each man is, "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." All the intelligence, all the power, all the glory, all the goodness, all the resources of God are equally available for each one. Let us observe Jesus' teaching regarding man's relationship to government. We do not find him advocating one man's regulating of another as the final solution of human difficulties, but each man's control of himself through obedience to God's control. This is the way the Master handled the intricacies, injustices, and ambiguities of human government. Surely the methods of Jesus will make men better citizens while they are growing in the expression of man as the son of God. Is not this the answer to every individual, national, and international problem of government today? He prayed that all might know that they were one with the infinite Mind, even as he was. He taught not that men should be governed by him, but by the same Mind that governed him. His efforts were directed to rousing the multitudes to the presence of God with them to guide them, rather than urging them because of their helplessness to let him manage their affairs. It was in this way that Jesus revealed the presence of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

At the very beginning of Jesus' career, evil laid before him the proposition of world dictatorship. Matthew writes: "The devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and

worship me." The temptation was presented to Jesus to believe that he had special power above all others, that here was a magnificent area for his work, that he could best bless others by ruling over them, or, possibly, that in this way he could dispense his beneficence from a position in which he could receive the homage and adulation of all. But Jesus saw straight through error's offer, for he ejected it with the words, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Jesus came not to be worshiped, but to teach how to worship God.

In the very highest sense, Jesus had dominion over the principalities of the world. The seeming rule of sickness, sin, and death, of materiality, of mental malpractice and animal magnetism, of hate, greed, and pride, of cruelty and deceit, of human power and physical force, of evil elements and mortal law, all yielded to the Christ-power which he possessed. Angels, not soldiers, were his means of deliverance from evil and accomplishment of good. And the greatest part of his greatness was that he claimed it to be true of every individual, a God-made and God-preserved fact of man's identity. His healing works were the evidence which he gave to others of this truth. The Christ-power is the only real power ruling in the world.

Jesus did not found a material kingdom of his own. He did not attempt humanly to overthrow those that were already established. He paid his tax to Caesar and counseled the lepers to show themselves to the priests after their healing, in accord with Levitical law. His emphasis was not upon getting possession of the kingdoms of men, or upon building a new empire, but upon revealing the kingdom of heaven within. The kingdoms of the earth are as nothing in comparison with this inner kingdom. The Master revealed that within the man of God's creating is the kingdom of eternal peace, of boundless opportunity, of divine power, of endless expansion, of individual freedom and harmonious coexistence with the universe. This kingdom is governed by divine Mind; its laws are administered by divine Love; and man is inseparable from this beneficent control. Thus individual man finds himself forever one with his own righteous government, not needing to be governed by, or to govern, others, because in reality the same fullness of divine control is with each one.

Jesus' conquests were never over men, but over false suggestions. His accomplishments were never at the expense of others, but always to show them how to succeed. His valued possessions were the true ideas of God and man. His defense of these was mental and not physical, within and not without. His kingdom no man could take from him, and he took no other man's kingdom away. He despoiled the suppositional rule of evil. All the power he exercised was from above, and this power

he declared was the only power of every other man. He came not to govern men, but to enable them to understand their individual relation to God and to divine government.

As human consciousness becomes more familiar with the facts of man's divinely controlled existence, there will appear more stable human government, whatever the prevailing type of politics in any country. Mrs. Eddy has written in *Science and Health*: "God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love." As each one allows himself to be governed by Truth, human government will be purged and spiritualized, the divine elements will find their way into genuine politics and the errors which have incapacitated the body politic will be healed. It will be set free from evil's domination, its rightful functioning will be restored, and this part of human experience will thereby make peaceful progress toward its final yielding to divine government.

Where individual freedom and brotherhood coexist, peoples and nations progress. It is not the prerogative of government to infringe upon the righteous liberty of the individual, but to protect it. Any argument to the contrary is advanced, not because the Principle of individual and collective liberty, which is God, is unworkable, but because it has been forgotten or not sufficiently applied. With crisp directness Mrs. Eddy throws light on this subject when she writes in *Miscellaneous Writings*: "Unconstitutional and unjust coercive legislation and laws, infringing individual rights, must be 'of few days, and full of trouble.' The vox populi, through the providence of God, promotes and impels all true reform; and, at the best time, will redress wrongs and rectify injustice."

Human government functions properly only when it is unfolding step by step the evidence of God's control of the universe. Men are great only when they are truly demonstrating, as the Master did, that they can do nothing of themselves, but that God is working with them, unfolding for them the ever-presence of heaven. The true idea of God will overturn in human affairs until divine Mind governs every act and thought of men, for this Mind alone, being the creator of all, has the right and might to govern all.

Christian Science works on the basis of spiritual facts being true of man at all times. It reveals what these facts are, and demonstrates them through the experience of divine healing. The glorious facts of one divine Mind, and of individual man's oneness with its exhaustless wisdom, are revealed for all humanity to know. The steadfast glow of this truth is penetrating the darkness of mortal belief, dispersing false teachings and ignorance. As its light increases it will finally enable every man to know God as his Mind, and to reign with Him in glory.

MYTHOLOGY OF MATTER

Perhaps no more important utterance has ever reached mankind than Mary Baker Eddy's statement that matter is mythology. (See *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, page 591.) A clear echo of Jesus' words, "The flesh profiteth nothing," this statement is a part of the teachings of Christianity. In II Timothy, the Christian is urged to study that he may learn rightly to divide "the word of truth," or clearly to discern the line of demarcation between that which is real and that which is mythical. As the Christian Scientist heeds Paul's counsel to Timothy and searches the Scriptures in the light of Mrs. Eddy's writings, there is revealed to him the infinity of Spirit, and the consequent unreality of matter, Spirit's opposite.

Religion's business is to impart the truth of God and of His universe to men. Unfortunately, myths have been particularly associated with religious beliefs, mythology being considered a part of primitive religions. Yet a myth is defined, in part, by Webster as "a person or thing whose existence is imaginary or not verifiable." Such nonentity could have no place in God's reality. Then religion must cease to teach the fable that matter is true substance. This fable has been spread throughout the earth in various forms, but matter's actual existence is not verifiable. Even physical scientists today are admitting its illusive nature. Writing of the material world, a well-known professor of astronomy says, "... strange compound of external nature, mental imagery and inherited prejudice which lies visible to my eyes and tangible to my grasp. . . . The eternal world of physics has thus become a world of shadows."

Christian Science goes farther and declares matter to be only the supposition of mythical mortal mind. Matter can only seem to exist in the realm of mortal belief, for God never knew it or made it. Since matter does not originate in God, it does not contain a single element of reality. Every form of matter is therefore but a form of mythology, whose character and history are wholly unreal.

In the academic study of Roman mythology, the pupil learns of a goddess Diana, a goddess of chastity and hunting, the daughter of Jupiter and Latona. He reads of Diana's beauty and grace, of her court which attends her when she comes to earth. He goes to the picture galleries, where paintings of Diana draw many spectators to witness her loveliness. He views a statue of her and touches the graceful lines of her figure, which the sculptor has portrayed in marble. Poets have sung her praises, describing her individuality and life, and the pupil pores over these passages of literature, possibly preparing himself for an examination on the subject.

Yet Diana never existed: she is a myth. The nature and qualities attributed to her, she never possessed. Her history was never lived. She was never born; and her supposed parents were myths. The marble was not a likeness of her body, for she never had one. All the knowledge the pupil gained about her was a figment of the imagination, for Diana is a collection of beliefs, nothing more. In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy writes: "From beginning to end, whatever is mortal is composed of material human beliefs and of nothing else." Every form of matter, whether it be an atom or a mortal, belongs to the realm of mythology. Mortal sense, itself a myth, may seem to paint a picture of a material object on the retina of the eye, or describe its characteristics on the written page, but it must still remain an illusion.

Let us turn the lens of divine Science for a moment upon a particular type of materiality called invalidism, for a close analysis. We see it formed out of the nothingness of matter, or mortal mind, for these are one; so it is evident falsity. David said of a mortal in the one hundred and third psalm: "His days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Subjected to the same analysis, a sinner is also seen to be a mythical figure; mortal mind's outlined belief of the suppositional absence of good. The great Master proved this when the woman, taken in sin was brought to him in the temple. All who stood about, even the woman herself, were believing in the reality of a sinner, all save Jesus. He knew that the sin and the sinner were but a false concept of mortal sense, not a part of true being. As the result of his thought uplifted in communion with God, of persistent realization of the present reality of man as the offspring of good, the sinful belief was cast out and the erstwhile sinner freed. The evidence of holiness dispelled the lie. This transformation could not have occurred had the people's concept of a sinner possessed a single element of reality. Only myths vanish. Realities abide.

As the Master's healing work is recalled, his experiences prove beyond question the illusory nature of materiality. The image of the withered hand, the leprous skin, the impotent limbs, the dead person, the tempest, all vanished; and where they had seemed to be, there appeared the evidences of health and harmony. Jesus' divine knowing uncovered the deception of material sense in every case, liberating the deluded human consciousness and revealing the facts of being.

That which possesses the nature of illusion must go to its native nothingness at the coming of the truth. So, through spiritual illumination, matter in all its forms must pass forever from human thought. But this does not mean the loss of a single identity of God's

creating. Rather does it signify the removal of a state of mesmeric ignorance, which has seemed to hide from view the glorious manifestations of spiritual substance. In the penetrating light of Mrs. Eddy's discovery, men are able at last to forsake the contemplation of mortal mythology for the study of divine Science, in which they may learn to behold substantial creations of divine Mind in their changeless perfection.

What comfort this good news brings to him who is striving to overcome the sufferings of sense in order that he may partake of the blessings of Soul! How clear the way becomes when one realizes that, instead of having to struggle with material objects, conditions, laws, and powers, he needs only to become increasingly aware of the mythology of matter, for this terminates fear of matter and belief in it, thereby sweeping away for him the supposed basis of sin, disease, and limitation.

Dear reader, are you burdened with the image of a material self, which mortal mind has outlined to you and called by your name? Does this image contain deformity, bad habits, sensual inheritance, disease? Is it struggling with temper and fear? Is it poor and friendless? Has it accumulated great burdens of material possessions which weigh it down? Is it fettered with grave responsibilities and wearied with the struggle of mortal existence? Do you long to be free from its limitations? Because it is mortal in essence and nature, it is not your true spiritual selfhood, your God-made identity. It is but a figure of mythology which bears no relation to your real being. The story of its birth and growth is legendary. It is neither a help nor a hindrance to you, for it does not exist in the realm of the real, the realm of Spirit.

You may think that you have seen a picture of its face in a mirror; that you have weighed its body on the scales; that you have felt its fever; that you know its pleasures and pains. But none of these impressions prove the reality of a mortal any more than the picture and statue in the art gallery make Diana a living creature. Diana as a suppositional goddess, and a mortal as the suppositional child of God, are both illusions. In the Science of creation, a mortal is nonexistent.

All the ideas of Spirit, divine Mind, partake of the eternal nature. Here man is formed incorporeal and perfect, the son of God, the offspring of divine Love. So the figures of mythology, the objects of sense, begin to fade into oblivion, and the ideas of Truth unfold to us as tangible realities. As Mrs. Eddy has written with the pen of divine inspiration in *Miscellaneous Writings*: "God is not chargeable with imperfection. His modes declare the beauty of holiness, and His manifold wisdom shines through the visible world in glimpses of the eternal verities. Even through the mists of mortality is seen the brightness of His coming."

GOD'S ORBITS

God's universe with its scientific order is becoming more apparent to men in these times of research, invention, and religious progress. As human thought breaks away from false beliefs about matter, time, and space, wider spheres of perception and action are unfolding. This earth is not the horizon of knowledge. Wisdom about the heaven's hosts is multiplying. Deeper attention is being given to the spiritual account of creation in the first chapter of Genesis.

As the student carefully searches this initial chapter of the Holy Bible and its scientific interpretation in *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy, two facts stand out which are appropriate to the present space age. First, God, supreme Mind, is the sole creator; then, with the conception of each idea, there is the launching of it into eternal purpose.

God's creating of ideas of existence, if without accompanying purpose and control of them for eternity, would be fruitless functioning. There must be continuing usefulness for all that God brings forth. Since creative Mind is the origin of the universe, it must be the ultimate, the all-inclusive. This implies that ideas emanating from the divine Mind eternally remain within the orbits of God's intention for them.

Every true identity, from the most minute to immensity, lives and moves in accord with God's law of changeless perfection. The law of spiritual attraction makes impossible any power that could pull these emanations out of their God-given circuits, as permanent parts of the endless universe of good. Their status is fixed, and cannot be invaded. Error could not live in the atmosphere of Spirit, but God's ideas drink in its holy essence, and thrive upon it. Launched successfully in Mind's ultimate purpose for it, every divine idea keeps an unswerving course. Throughout all aeons, it persists in its God-ordained and directed career.

The propulsion of every divine concept along the paths of Mind, the reaches of infinity, is accomplished by the energies of Spirit. These forces are indestructible, never permitting the work of the Creator to fall short of its goal, to lack essential sustenance, nor to be nullified. The divine order throughout the scope of Mind never reaches a final stage, but ever unfolds the circle of celestial events.

Mind's launching of its ideas is never experimental nor faulty. The first chapter of Genesis states in no uncertain terms, "God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." This accomplishment has lasted from beyond the history of humanity till now, and has within it the elements of endless continuance. Since the earth and moon are unswervingly kept in their courses, is it strange to assume that man, God's

paramount work, must be held in forever unfoldment of the divine dominion bestowed upon him?

Mrs. Eddy, in writing of Mind's control of all that really exists, says in *Miscellaneous Writings*: "This Mind, then, is not subject to growth, change, or diminution, but is the divine intelligence, or Principle, of all real being; holding man forever in the rhythmic round of unfolding bliss, as a living witness to and perpetual idea of inexhaustible good." In this statement of the divine origin and ultimate of man, is indicated the predestination of his forever unity with God.

God's orbits are not limited channels wherein His ideas are confined, but divinely outlined opportunities for reflection of Mind's infinitude. Scientific security of procedure permeates their atmosphere. Mind cannot send forth its ideas into surroundings unlike itself in essence, to wander erratically through time, but steers them precisely through eternity. The Master, Christ Jesus, spoke of his spiritual identity as coming from the Father, doing always those things that pleased the Father, and returning to the Father. God's offspring do not dash headlong into self-destruction, but move in accord with their Creator's foreknowing. They cannot stray into misguided paths, because they are never separated from the will of God. The first chapter of Genesis is as true an account of creation today as when it was first written.

Today's attempts to launch vehicles into new scopes of exploration signify closer approach to discoveries of the divine order. But neither modern inventions nor human propulsion into space, can of themselves sufficiently interpret the infinite. Unknown heights, depths, and distances of matter can never reveal primordial Truth. Only divine Science really can traverse immensity, and report the presence of the kingdom of heaven throughout all space. Through purification of human consciousness, thought is lifted into the atmosphere of the primitive and ultimate — the eternal All.

St. John, on the Isle of Patmos, wrote of seeing "a new heaven and a new earth," and of what was going on in them. He evidently beheld more of the nature of reality than human knowledge through the later centuries has been able to explain. And Mrs. Eddy, in speaking of her discovery of divine Science, writes in *Retrospection and Introspection*: "The divine hand led me into a new world of light and Life, a fresh universe — old to God, but new to His 'little one.'" In *Pulpit and Press* she writes: "Who lives in good, lives also in God, — lives in all Life, through all space."

Humanity has been trained for centuries to believe that man has fallen away from God into mortality. There he is supposed to move in orbits of his own making, experiencing uncertainty, failure, sin, suffering, limitation in every direction, and death. All this is false

assumption, for there can be no existence apart from God, who is infinite Life. Christian Science has come to restore to all men the realization of the ever-continuing coexistence of God and man. Giving heed to this revelation of Truth, human consciousness wakes to the possibility of moving beyond the atmosphere of matter into the awareness of spiritual existence.

Recognition of man's existence in accord with Mind's purpose for him, embraces humanity step by step in this truth's own demonstration of immortality. The awakened human thought will find itself released from so-called laws of matter, mortal mind, and evil, from the seeming pull of animal magnetism and the hypnotism of aggressive mental suggestion, and held in laws of supreme Life and Love.

An illustration of this may be found in the life of the Master when he walked upon the sea. Because Jesus knew and accepted the supremacy of Spirit embracing the universe and man, he was released from the false assumptions of mortal mind, and held in the divine demonstration. Neither the human Jesus nor the Christ, his real self, sank in the waves. Jesus was not left a victim of the accepted laws of gravitation, danger, or destruction. The human was not ignored, neglected, or abandoned to death. As Jesus trusted the truth of man, held in Life's ultimate intention for him, he was kept with the Christ in security, dominion, and freedom.

How undeviating was the Master's way, divinely and humanly! Because he knew, and had resort to, his true selfhood as the Son of God, his human experience triumphed over every attempt of error to involve him in discord or disaster. His spiritual wisdom prevented him from making mistakes, from wasting time in fruitless pursuits, from failing in his highest mission. Always the truth of man's moving within the scope of God's purpose, carried him to the summit of demonstration over all material sense. Nothing could rob him of his divine birthright or destiny. He came to show us how to follow the same purposeful path.

Waiting at our doorsteps are spiritual methods of existence, experience evolving from infinity, freedom rising from an understanding of matter's unreality. Today offers men opportunities to lay off many earth weights, to exchange ancient beliefs for spiritual realities. The potency of divine Science is expressed through spiritual laws. As true ideas which come to the surface through study and revelation are proven, the vanguard of divinely prepared scientific exploration reaches beyond materiality's atmosphere to touch the realm of immortality.

The earnest student of mathematics regards arithmetic as only the first step in his study and practice. So the Christian Scientist aspires to achieve and demonstrate more and

more of the calculus of the infinite. Every new view of divine order, enables him more clearly to know his identity as the Son of God. Then the struggle of following self-outlined paths begins to cease, along with their disillusionments, disappointments, and thwarting limitations. Instead, there glows the presence of divine Love, which has never left man to make his own life, but has planned and preserved the functioning of the kingdom of heaven within him forever.

To be aware of divine purpose, guarding and guiding man's progress, enables men to cease believing in chance, human will, evil destiny, or personal sense as the arbiters of anyone's experience. It brings a deep peace, confidence, and receptivity to divine control, which works out far grander achievement than mortals can possibly accomplish. Taking away fear, hopelessness, or resignation to fate, such awareness reveals the glory of celestial existence, here and everywhere. Man, moving in God's orbit of ultimate intention for him, is never alone. He is conscious of Principle's activity with him; he feels the animation of immortality throughout his identity; he reflects divine purpose as the innate pulsing of his being. He is conscious with omniscience, active with omnipotence, and existent with omnipresence.

"THE PATTERN OF THE MOUNT"

Through the revelation that came to Mary Baker Eddy, there has been vouchsafed to Christian Scientists spiritual understanding of the Master's teachings with attendant power to obey his commands to heal sickness and sin and to break the hold of death. Insofar as they remain true to this trust, they are servants of mankind and leaders of nations. They are cities set on hills of thought, where demonstrations of Christian healing may be seen by all men. No prophet of old was provided with greater authority and power from on high than is the consecrated Christian Scientist of today. And no Christian Scientist has less obligation of devotion to this bestowal than did the ancient men of God to their earth missions.

The healing work of Christian Science patterns the Biblical records of divine deliverance of men from evil, because it emanates from the same source that inspired prophet and apostle. It is functioning today to warn humanity of enemy errors, to guard the gates of thought, to strengthen the walls of courage, and to cause the reign of righteousness to appear in more permanent aspect. In mental watch towers of the world it heralds the presence of the peace of God.

To experience greater evidences of divine healing power in all the walks of life today is doubtless the desire of many peoples. Christian Scientists are humbly and earnestly

striving towards this goal in their dealings with themselves and with their fellow men. They have learned in some degree that such healing occurs through the energy of holiness recognized and yielded to by human consciousness. And they have found that the effects of this energy become more apparent as thought turns from the contemplation of materialism and abides with spiritual reality. In proportion as men turn unreservedly and continuously to God for help in every situation, divine healing appears as more than an occasional occurrence; it becomes uninterrupted evidence of omnipresent, supreme harmony. It is the command of the Christ, not the demand of mortality. Inspired analysis of Christ Jesus' example reveals the essence of his healing efficacy and indicates how men today may successfully follow the method of their elder brother.

What Jesus knew of his spiritual background contributed vitally to his healing work. Every individual has a spiritual background. The Master knew that man is always the son of God, the offspring of Spirit, dwelling in the eternal Mind.

When confronted with sense testimony to the contrary, he remained at the standpoint of spiritual realization. What he humanly did at a moment of healing was of secondary importance. His abiding with what he had always known and lived of spiritual being was the essential factor. His preparation of divine consciousness equipped him to deliver men from false beliefs. Not what he learned about the human situation, but what was always real to him in eternal existence was his effectual asset.

From this height of holy consciousness the Master met and overcame every mortal testimony. His consciousness never yielded to the presentations of evil. Leprosy, prenatal disfigurement, hypocrisy, injustice, hunger, murder, mortal so-called law, and death gave way before the spiritual understanding of man as the son of God. Jesus did not start to overcome error when it presented itself to him. So far as he was concerned it was always non-existent, because he knew man's preexistence and eternal being as the perfect offspring of God.

Mrs. Eddy writes in her textbook, *Science and Health*: "Immortal Mind, governing all, must be acknowledged as supreme in the physical realm, so-called, as well as in the spiritual." This is just what Jesus did. He ever knew the spiritual fact to be reigning, not struggling with mortality. The physical realm, so-called, is but the false sense of existence, and so is no realm at all. Jesus never knew the power of immortal Mind as battling with the flesh when it touched the suppositional realm of physicality. He never thought in terms of divine power attempting to establish its kingdom in the midst of opposition. He knew that wherever God is, He is All-in-all, and that God is everywhere.

When truly acknowledging immortal Mind, Spirit, Principle, as supreme in the physical realm, so-called, human consciousness ceases to be aware of physique, disease, personal sense, evil. It is freed from the mesmerism of belief of life in matter, of struggle against evil, and is established in the peace and dominion of spiritual understanding. Diseased sensation is no longer recognized as information about the condition of man's being, and divine consciousness is accepted as the truth-teller. This is the way whereby seeming bondage to the flesh is ended, the way whereby our Master reached final resurrection and ascension.

Divine healing is a coming up to the mount of revelation; a purifying as though by fire; an irresistible uplifting of consciousness to behold the presence of "the body of heaven in his clearness" (Exodus), the spiritual identity of man. It was on the mount of revelation and transfiguration that man's eternity and divinity appeared as concrete being to Peter and James and John. They suddenly became aware of, and then temporarily lost sight of, that which was continually apparent to Christ Jesus. Jesus never descended from the height of spiritual perception where the ideas of God are tangible reality. The mount of revelation becomes the mount of transfiguration as divine healing occurs.

In Exodus we read that when Aaron and the children of Israel saw Moses after his experience on Mount Sinai, "the skin of his face shone;" and in Matthew we read that on the mount of transfiguration Jesus' "face did shine as the sun." The three disciples saw and heard Jesus and Moses and Elias talking together. The mortal sense about these men was silenced, and the eternal facts concerning them became vividly apparent. No one was seen to be held in matter, to be subject to age or death, or to be absent.

The individual identity of each one was recognized as divine and eternal.

On the mount of revelation and transfiguration, in other words at the moment of divine healing, thought is divorced from human doctrine, creed, therapy, experiment, and fear. It is consciously at one with divine reality and law. It is able to see the handiwork of Spirit. It can hear the voice of God declaring man to be His beloved son. Thought ceases to be the slave and victim of material sense and experiences the liberty of divine reality. The shapes of matter vanish, and the forms of Spirit become visible. The words of St. Paul, that both body and spirit are God's, become manifest to uplifted thought.

A little child stands naturally on the mount of divine healing, eager, responsive, receptive, unafraid. The adult sometimes has to climb there over the obstacles of self-opinion, false education, or mental resistance. But the transfiguration from God's hand

awaits them both. In her Message to The Mother Church for 1901 Mrs. Eddy writes: "Divine Love spans the dark passage of sin, disease, and death with Christ's righteousness, — the atonement of Christ, whereby good destroys evil, — and the victory over self, sin, disease, and death, is won after the pattern of the mount."

"The pattern of the mount," of divine healing, as we see it in this experience of Jesus, is not one of human argument, but of wordless beholding. The pattern is one of divine dominion, not one of personal contention; one of human stillness before the presence of omnipotence. It is a model of spiritual daring, rather than of priestly conservatism. This manner of healing requires self-immolation, purity, innocence, and sacrifice. It is a wholly spiritual way which disdains human acclaim, worldly power, and personal emolument. It is devoid of weakness, asceticism, and timidity. "The pattern of the mount" is one of spiritual nobility, before which every bastard belief of mortality flees. It is the pattern for the practice of all Christian healing.

When the ten lepers were made whole, Jesus was on the mount able to show them somewhat of their true identity. When he raised Jairus' daughter and when he was in the tomb, he was on the mount of transfiguration, revealing to human consciousness the eternal man of God's creating. Only on the mount of revelation does transfiguration occur, does mortality yield to immortality, does the evidence of eternal Life and perfect identity appear. Only at the height of spiritual cognition do we lose sight of mortal self and know man as he is known of God. Divine healing is the transfiguration experience, the climax of the revelation to human consciousness of man's preexistence and eternal identity as the son of God.

And where is the mount of revelation and transfiguration? In its metaphysical meaning it is more than a landmark of Palestine, more than a regional location where a never-to-be repeated miracle occurred. This mount is wherever human consciousness sheds its sandals of mortal belief and knows that it stands on holy ground. Jesus knew the presence of the mount in the halls of government, beside the country roads, and in the synagogues. Peter, Paul and John were aware of its presence in prison and in exile. Mrs. Eddy found it among the New England hills. It stands through all the past and looms on the horizon of the future. Only those who ascend the mount in the company of the Christ, the true idea of God delivering men to the uttermost, behold the heavenly vision. On the mount of revelation and transfiguration surely all things are possible with God.

Spiritual healing is Christ's requirement that all Christians practice what they preach, be what they profess, do what they acclaim, become humanly humble, and spiritually mighty. It is the measuring rod of religious attainment which plumbs the depth of

Christian sincerity. This subject is one so deep and broad and high that human sense cannot yet compass its measure. The Christ-work penetrates all space and knowledge with power of resurrection from every materialistic belief. It is more than world-wide; it is thought-wide.

About this subject, Mrs. Eddy writes pungently in *Miscellaneous Writings*'. "Let us have a clearing up of abstractions. Let us come into the presence of Him who removeth all iniquities, and healeth all our diseases. Let us attach our sense of Science to what touches the religious sentiment within man. Let us open our affections to the Principle that moves all in harmony, — from the falling of a sparrow to the rolling of a world. Above Arcturus and his sons, broader than the solar system, and higher than the atmosphere of our planet, is the Science of mental healing."

The Master included only three of his disciples in his experience on the mount of transfiguration. Today, Christ, Truth, is lifting multitudes to the height of divine perception and transformation. Divine healing occurs in the spiritual altitude and attitude where communion with God unfolds into concrete being. This occurrence requires no setting within religious ceremony; rather does it indicate escape from ritual. No suppositional skill of the human mind in medicine, surgery, or mental manipulation could possibly initiate it. Only as human consciousness rises above the level of mortal belief does it behold the wonders wrought by the hand of God. Divine healing accomplished in any age is the fulfillment of divine law and prophecy to men.

Wherever the power of divine deliverance touches the world today, it unites the hearts of man, reveals the presence of the order of heaven, establishes justice, and opens possibilities of research and discovery beyond the so-called realm of matter. Its overcoming of disease, though far-reaching in its scope, is yet the least part of its capability, for it has come to exchange the whole material concept of existence in human thought for the spiritual reality of the universe and man. Such appreciation of the term "divine healing" takes it far afield to meet the needs of nations as well as of individuals in the provinces of physics, economics, government, education, and religion, as well as medicine. It is the most potent factor for good there is in the world, because it is the power of God with men, revealed again in Christian Science according to "the pattern of the mount."

THE BUSINESS OF LIFE

Christian Science teaches that absolute facts are eternal realities, and may be recognized as the solution for the problems of daily life. Mrs. Eddy writes in *No and Yes* that

"eternal harmony, perpetuity, and perfection, constitute the phenomena of being, governed by the immutable and eternal laws of God." This reference indicates that the business of Life is represented by divine Science at work in the realm of infinite perfection, the action of eternal laws in constant operation. The realization of this truth is of such value to humanity that it is worthy of the deepest consideration, for only through the understanding of absolute Truth, and increasing obedience thereto, can men find permanent freedom from the delusions of material sense.

As we reason from the premise of the reality of infinite spiritual good, it becomes clear that all the activity of real existence occurs within divinity, for God is All-in-all. It naturally follows that the spiritual creation is forever manifesting the activity of immortal Life, thus expressing the divine pleasure. Did not our Master say, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"? How effortless, then, is Life's care for all that Life produces! How joyous the creator's perpetuation of universal spiritual existence! Creation is blessed by the unbroken, boundless rhythm of heavenly harmony, forever expressing eternal Principle. God, Life, sustains spiritual creation with the bliss of parental Love and the freedom of scientific supremacy.

The sustaining action of the one cause is based upon the changeless value of infinite good and the firm basis of Principle, and not upon the shifting values of mythical matter. The Science of Life operates through "the infinite cycles of eternal existence," and is always expressive of undeviating order and purpose. This truth rebukes the belief that Life's business passes through cycles of mortal thought and is sensitive to shifting material belief. The action of divine Principle is always the work of intelligent dominion. Principle contains no element of chance or luck; it always acts scientifically in the bestowal of blessings. The Father's business holds its eternal way through divine laws alone. This activity is Spirit's care of spiritual existence and not mortal mind's manipulation of matter. Boundless wealth of substance is available for this universal care. The divine resources always permit of the unfoldment of existence, because they are naturally omnipresent and infinite.

The power of Life is never gained by accretion, nor diminished by use. The action of limitless good leaves the Principle of existence undepleted, the divine power unlesened, and the area of Mind's operations uncurtailed. Mind's support of the ever unfolding spiritual universe is without periods of strain or pressure, because Life, Mind, operates from the basis of infinitude. The unlabored motion of divine knowing forever supports the expression of right ideas.

These facts indicate that the activities of Life are always positive, never passing through negative conditions of limitation or materiality. Life, the all-knowing and all-inclusive, is aware of the infinite universe, which partakes of the divine nature and is within the jurisdiction of divine Mind. Life is always cognizant of eternity, of that which was, and is, and is to come, and so forever enjoys unopposed self-expression through its infinite manifestation. God's universe experiences endless fulfillment of good, the changeless rhythm of perfect harmony. Thereby God and man are glorified.

How can these absolute facts help one in a practical way today? Christian Science teaches that in proportion as men cease to believe that material appearances are the facts of being, and as they coincidentally turn to Spirit to learn the realities of Life they will exchange the beliefs and experiences of mortal discords for the Science and harmony of true existence. When human faith in materiality is surrendered for divine Science, men lose fear of the future, the burdens of the past fall away, and seemingly insurmountable barriers to present progress melt before the vision of God's plan for His beloved son. As material, personal concepts of the business of life yield to the true idea, the absolute fact, this true idea will be objectified in human experience. Absolute facts, when entertained, dispel the gloom of mortality, solve the problems of human existence, and set our feet in the paths of.' God's appointing. They bring us into the experience of salvation from limitation of every sort. If it is true that ignorance of God is the source of all woe, then the opposite of this statement is also true, namely, that an understanding of the divine Life and law and creation will restore to human sense the evidence of the presence of the kingdom of heaven.

Where else than in divine Mind could this state of perfection exist and this government endure? Then the consciousness of divine Mind must be the only real business world there is. Here divine ideas are unfolding, divine methods operating, and divine results occurring. The universe of spiritual ideas is under the government of God. As Mind conducts the business of Life in the infinitude of spiritual consciousness, all that is needed is complete and this performance is the law of divine unfoldment in operation. This constant climax of creation is man, the complete representation of Mind.

The divine order functioning in man, maintains him at the point of supremacy as the reflection of Life which knows no error. St. Paul writes in Romans, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." The word "conqueror" implies one who knows an obstacle, who contends with it, and who triumphs through its destruction. He who is more than conqueror needs not to war, but abides in the reality of

ever-present good. Divine Love, Life, has made man to express righteousness, not to struggle with beliefs of disease, poverty, sin, disaster, frustration, and death, for these do not exist in reality. Love could not create an enemy of existence and then function to deliver man from this enemy. The business of Life expressed in man is the peace of Spirit, not the conflict of suppositional materiality. In all his ways man remains the reflection of the loving Principle, the consistent Life which rests in the security of majestic self-unfoldment.

Christian Science, the Science which our Way-shower used and taught, has come to this age to teach us how to learn the divine truths, how to live them in daily life, and so to experience their transforming power. Mrs. Eddy writes in *Miscellaneous Writings* (p. 166) that spiritual ideas entertained in Jesus' consciousness and embodied in his daily life made him an honest person, a good workman, and finally glorified him. We recall how swift was Jesus' progress from the good man to the glorified, and also his statement that his followers should do what he did. He proved that the spiritual progress of men, whereby the mortal is put off for immortality, can be swift, certain, and practical when governed by clear knowing of absolute truths and obedience to them in daily experience. No other method of salvation for mankind can approximate this divine way of our Master.

Jesus' understanding of the facts of man's existence as the son of God entered into all his human experiences. An evidence of this statement is to be found in the story of the boat load of fishermen caught in what threatened to be a disastrous storm at sea. Jesus' spiritual understanding stilled the storm and brought the boat to land immediately. He proved that the law of God was supreme, and that everything in the case was embraced in divinity's demonstration of harmony, instead of in materiality's claim of disaster. Again, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave, he demonstrated that the business of Life was eternal preservation of man rather than his abandonment. This proof was accomplished by dependence upon the absolute spiritual facts of being rather than upon human experimentation. And yet again, when Jesus fed the multitude in a barren place, did he not prove that the activity of Life in sustaining creation is carried on through divine laws, and not through material processes?

Still another instance of Jesus' true understanding of the methods of Life might be cited. Mrs. Eddy speaks of his use of the lens of Science in the camera of divine Mind, through which he "threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow, thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying." (*Science and Health*) Was not

this method of safeguarding and uplifting humanity infinitely more wise and fruitful than educational processes which inject into human thought the pictures of disease and sin in the attempt to help men escape from these very errors? Jesus knew the absolute spiritual facts of man's identity, and he brought this to light, wherever he went, through his own recognition and embodiment of this truth. Truly in every thought and act he was about his Father's business.

These few instances in Jesus' experience serve to illustrate that his understanding of the laws of Life is still far in advance of the most modern concepts of existence. The business of Life as Jesus taught it is worthy of the deepest study and most consecrated use today. In the light of our faint appreciation of his mighty work, who dares deny the practicality of his methods or the wisdom of his ways? Rather should his followers discern more clearly the true import of his declarations, and strive to imitate his works. This can be done as divine revelation is received and retained in receptive thought, and courageously acted upon in human affairs.

The ways of God are growing clearer to men through the revelation of Christian Science, and in His ways, as our Leader says in Miscellaneous Writings, "neither material finesse, standpoint, nor perspective guides the infinite Mind and spiritual vision that should, does, guide His children."

"THE LABORATORY OF INFINITE LOVE"

Earnest seekers after Truth today are more insistent than ever upon finding a demonstrable religion. They will be satisfied only with teachings which require and empower practical proof of their statements. Christian Science measures up to this requirement, for it is healing the sin, disease, and suffering of men in every form. Mrs. Eddy, the Discoverer of the Science of eternal Life which Jesus practiced, has written in her book, Miscellany. "This Science is the essence of religion, distilled in the laboratory of infinite Love and prepared for all peoples."

The physical scientist labors with untiring patience in his laboratory in the interests of what is called natural science. With equal devotion may the Christian Scientist work to understand and prove the allness of Spirit. He will give acceptance only to positive spiritual truth, absolute facts, divine realities. Every step in his work will be a proven position, a solved problem, steps of progress that cannot be reversed because based on the eternal laws of perfection. Through his investigations and demonstrations of Truth he will help the whole world to know reality; and as he stands at the threshold of Love's laboratory, he will pray, as did David of old, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold

wondrous things out of thy law." The inspired Christian Scientist gladly accepts, and earnestly seeks to satisfy, the requirements of his profession. These include the consecrated study of the law of God and complete obedience thereto. Not a mere theoretic idealist, but a practical prover of the Word of God, his work is positive, buoyant, and successful. Accepting the axiom that there is no error in reality, he is not bent on discovering causes for error, but on demonstrating the infinite cause, God, good. Constantly living Christ's way of salvation, as well as teaching it and healing with it, he develops a necessary ability to discern thought scientifically. In disposing of error, or demonstrating harmony, he begins with the truth of being, basing arguments and conclusions on the basis of spirituality and not on matter. With reverence and joy he becomes aware of the omnipresence of good, and finds nothing more satisfying than the vanquishment of evil through the understanding of its unreality.

The laboratory equipment which the Christian Scientist must use includes the microscope of Spirit, the lenses of unselfishness, humility, and Science, and in "the crucible of Truth." {Miscellaneous Writings) Under this microscope matter vanishes, and mental molecules of divine substance — true ideas — define the ways of eternal Life; illusions of matter and evil lose their seeming identity; temporal objects vanish, and forms of eternal reality appear. Once the ideas of infinite Mind are seen, the Scientist can never forget them; and he presses on to fuller discovery and enjoyment.

The lens of Science magnifies to human sense the concept of man as the son of God, until he is seen, collectively and individually, to be the only man there is. This lens magnifies the Christian Scientist's concept of the power of God immeasurably, so that he comprehends more clearly the workings of divinity and touches more than "the fringes of eternity." He comes to know more of the Life which is the source, center, and condition of all existence. The Psalmist says, "For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Mrs. Eddy states that through the lens of unselfishness alone "the sunshine of Truth beams with such efficacy as to dissolve error." {Retrospection and Introspection) As the student presses along this line of investigation, he finds error being dispelled and its seeming control broken. Our Leader also tells us that the lens of humility must be used constantly in the study of the textbook, Science and Health. This lens clarifies its statements to human thought and prevents the darkness of self-opinion, mortal sense, egotism, or human will from clouding the revealings of Truth.

From the use of these lenses the earnest student will turn with intense interest to the use of "the crucible of Truth," a most necessary part of his equipment. ("Crucible" is defined as a trying and purifying test or agency.") With this definition in thought it becomes apparent to the Scientist that his laboratory work will embrace the constant testing of the reality of good and the unreality of evil. As these tests are made, divine Science will be found to release men from false teachings. In "the crucible of Truth" false beliefs lose their aspect of reality, enthroned and organized errors crumble to nothingness, and the illusions of evil are finally dissolved.

With such requirements satisfied, the scientific Christian, experienced in the use of the laboratory equipment, is prepared to do the works commanded by the master Christian. If he is willing and obedient, he will find there is no real obstacle to spiritual progress, and no problem that cannot be solved by divine Science; No disappointments await him as he pursues his course honestly in "the laboratory of infinite Love." The student will depend upon spiritual sense throughout all his investigations of the processes of good. This sense cognizes the elements of Life and separates them from the so-called elements of error. He will find that there are in reality no conflicting elements, but that all is good, moving in accord with the will of God. He will also become aware of man's power as the reflection of God, and thus prove man's God-given dominion.

Love's laboratory also provides opportunity for enlightenment on the subject of true essences. The student discerns that it is of vital importance to use only the thoughts of God in all his work, so that every action may have within it the essence of divinity. The thoughts and acts of the Christian Scientist should glow with the essence of spirituality, for then they will be mighty to heal. What thoughts must have been the essence of Jesus' act when he said of the multitude in the wilderness, "They need not depart," and then took five loaves and two fishes and blessed them and fed five thousand men, besides women and children!

Again, spiritual investigation reveals the forces of God's universe. The material Scientist often deals with what he believes to be both good and evil forces. But the Christian Scientist finds only forces of good at work everywhere, for the so-called material forces do not in reality exist. The action of the forces of divine Mind is the perpetuation of the eternal facts of being. They contain no destructive elements, no elements of chance. These forces have their origin in infinite Love; they operate in the realm of spiritual reality, and always produce harmony. All that the Christian Scientist discovers in his laboratory is profitable for mankind.

As the student progresses, he becomes aware of "the alchemy of Spirit," disposing of false beliefs of sin, sickness, and even death. He perceives that this spiritual alchemy, destroying evil belief, radically changes human experience for the better. Such changes from material sense to spiritual understanding are seen to be accomplished by our persistent acceptance and use of divine Truth, and not by one sudden transition. They are the result of days and years spent in Love's laboratory, testing and being tested.

Perhaps the first laboratory test of the Christian Scientist will be that of his own sincerity through reformation. He will test his praying to see if thereby he is really loving others more. Through metaphysical healing he will test Jesus' sayings. He will prove the Master's unerring Science by understanding and obeying the laws of divine Principle in his daily life. He will prove the nothingness of sin by forsaking belief in the reality of sin. And he will let God, good, test him on all points.

All of Mrs. Eddy's writings unfold the divine Science of Jesus' teachings and demonstrations. We cannot fully understand her discovery unless we know and use it as the Science of Christianity; unless we study and prove its eternal laws. Our thought should always be ready for the endless revealings of reality. Let us explore the deeper meanings of this Science, prove its laws, and receive the rich blessings. Every day is "the laboratory of infinite Love," in which we may continue to test and intelligently use the Science of God.

No matter where the Christian Scientist may be, whether in tragic circumstances, in an alien land, pursued by seemingly relentless persecutors, with overwhelming burdens and empty hands, alone or pressed by the surging of fearful humanity, he can find refuge in the consciousness of the availability of God's law. He can be delivered from any dilemma or evil circumstance by invoking this law, and will find every obedient footstep sustained by scientific proof. Constantly the way will grow clearer because the oneness and allness of Spirit will become plainer to him. Every demonstration of good will reveal the efficaciousness of divine Love. And so he will leave the weary round of mortal dreaming for the joy of eternal living.

As we work in our laboratory, let us remember that there is only one Mind. This Mind is not groping toward Truth, but is Truth revealing itself. Times of testing lie before us all. Materialism is making great claims, and these must be denied. Let us not be mere dabblers in Truth, but willing to obey at all times Science and its laws, to exchange blind belief for spiritual understanding, to view all through the microscope of Spirit and act accordingly.

We know our requirements are spiritual, we have found our true equipment, and the way before us is prepared by divine Love. What can hinder us that we should not obey Truth? As we are obedient, healing will be found to flourish, for our sincere efforts to heal are sustained by divine law. Our Leader writes in *Miscellaneous Writings*: "When every form and mode of evil disappear to human thought, and mollusk and radiate are spiritual concepts testifying to one creator, then, earth is full of His glory, and Christian Science has overshadowed all human philosophy, and being is understood in startling contradiction of human hypotheses; and Socrates, Plato, Kant, Locke, Berkeley, Tyndall, Darwin, and Spencer sit at the feet of Jesus."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Julia Michael Johnston was a life-long Christian Scientist during the early years of the movement. Her mother, Annie R. Michael, was a student of Mrs. Eddy, having taken Normal class with her in 1887. Mrs. Johnston went through Primary class with her mother and became a practitioner listed in *The Christian Science Journal* in 1913. She had Normal class with Clifford P. Smith and became a teacher in 1916. She herself taught the Normal Class in 1940. She first practiced in Lockport and Buffalo, New York, from 1913 until 1923, and then moved to New York City to live and practice. She wrote a series of articles about two children growing up in Christian Science which was later made into a booklet entitled *Elizabeth and Andy*. She also wrote a biography about Mrs. Eddy entitled *Mary Baker Eddy: Her Mission and Triumph*, which was published in 1946.