

On October 1 and October 8, 2007 – the subjects are: “Unreality” and "Are Sin Disease and Death Real?"

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selections of both are from “Humanity’s Divinity” by Helen M. Wright.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALING
WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE TREATMENT?**

Divine Love is at the core of every Christian Science healing. As early as 406 B.C., Sophocles wrote: "One word frees us from all the weight and pain of life: that word is love".

A Christian Science treatment begins and ends with Love. The minute I really KNOW God is Love, error ceases. A heartfelt feeling of love for the patient – a feeling of love that is beyond what can be expressed in words, negates any sense of error – trying to flood the practitioner’s mind. A practitioner, knowing “Thou [Infinite Good] art ever present,” must get the deep inner conviction that if he can rid himself of negative thoughts, cleanse himself of all sin, then God’s power can work through him to heal the patient. He becomes aware that healing is just the revelation of the perfection that has always existed.

When a patient calls you, assure him you will help him. Then immediately go to God in fervent prayer. Don’t think of the patient or the condition he mentioned. Keep your Mind stayed on Infinite Good. Ask: What do I know about God as Mind, as Spirit, as Soul, as Principle, Life, Truth, Love? In the body of infinite Good’s creating there can be no disease, no inharmony, etc. A good treatment always leads back to the realization of God as individual being. (See Mis. 101:31).

The patient is a victim of universal hypnotism. At the moment he doesn’t know how to free himself. We grease the skids for error’s exit when we look right at the false picture and know, “You are a lie. I do not believe you”; and walk away. We must see the patient, or anyone, is God made manifest. This removes the “veil.” If he complains of skin disease or broken bones, remind

him that he is God – qualities: intelligence, good, joy, harmony, gratitude, honesty, peace and patience, and none of these have skin or bones.

A treatment is the recognition of the nothingness of the “claim”; it deals only with God. The truth is that the kingdom of God is already within the patient’s consciousness, so it doesn’t have to be achieved.

Infinite Good and its individualization are one. Our work is to become aware of this divine fact, and die to material sense in order to see what is really there. “Death is not the real stepping-stone to Life and happiness. They are now and here; and a change in human consciousness, from sin to holiness, would reveal this wonder of being” (Un. 37:8).

How often do we read the textbook seeking a healing when, in reality there is nothing to heal. Perfection IS here and now. The healing comes as we read and obey: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.” Then the healing will be added.

In Revelation XII, St. John presents the birth of understanding by the symbol of a woman giving birth to a child. The birth begins with Prayer that shows us the inward attitude necessary, and “Atonement” shows the requirements the student must meet in order to be one with God -namely the constant turning away from material sense. etc. Thus we arrive at heaven which is not a place but symbolizes the point in our warfare when we actually realize for the first time that the “dragon,” the great crowned power, alias evil, error, that has always been honored as reality, is seen as unreal, as hypnotism only. Then “the dragon is cast out of heaven.” (See Rev. 20: 1-3, 10, 15; also I Cor. 15:24,28.)

The Bible warns against judging by appearances. No matter what the patient’s problem is never upbraid or censure him. “Neither do I condemn thee,” The patient wants you to know that such conditions do not exist in reality, and the practitioner must be convinced of the unreal nature of that which is troubling the patient.

A practitioner’s work is a life of prayer. The demonstration takes place in the consciousness of the practitioner. He knows he is not going to restore a sick body to its normal function, purpose and harmony because the body always is whole, complete, perfect. He has nothing to do to make it so but to realize that truth, and stand fast in spiritual identity. Behind every externalized form is the man of Infinite Good’s creating. To have “the crown of rejoicing,”

he must “grapple with sin in [himself] and in others” (S&H 29:2). Longfellow wrote, “If we could read the secret history of our enemies we should find in each man’s life sorrow enough to disarm all hostility”- and replace it with Love.

Our only motive in treatment is to prove our oneness with our Principle, Love. The Truth in my consciousness is the Christ, the healing agent. A Christian Science treatment, therefore, is “the acknowledgment of present perfection.” It is the conscious operation of the divine Mind on the part of the practitioner, who knows that the only effective prayer is the realization of the allness of the one Mind, Infinite Good. We must understand ourself to be the functioning of that Mind, and must struggle with error until we rise above it. As we do, “even the pangs of death disappear, accordingly as the understanding that we are spiritual beings here.

REAPPEARS” (Peo. 1:16)

The operation of the divine Mind includes within itself all good. As “ambassadors for Christ” we are entrusted with the authority of God. “Christian religions have always taught that God is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient,” states Stanford Viera in *Awake Thou That Sleepest*, “but in the next breath they teach that evil in the form of sin, disease, discord, disaster, death is very powerful and present everywhere. Now if evil is real and has presence, then this completely contradicts the truth of God’s all-power and all-presence.”

Mrs. Eddy showed how illogical these theological teachings are. She told her students “You are accepting only one percent of the good that belongs to you.” Since we are one with God we cannot be less than the allness of harmony, the allness of strength and health, the allness of good in all its aspects. Our real Mind knows no evil just as sunshine knows no fog, or darkness. There is no incurable disease; our oneness with Infinite Good gives us an abiding sense of Life. There is no such thing as too late. “If everything else fails, try blessing the situation.” We find freedom and are liberated from the haunting memory of past mistakes when our compassionate love forgives a wrong, and we see that evil is never part of us. When everything seems to be going wrong, laugh! Our spirit of gratitude will add to our smiles and laughter.

ENTERTAIN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND LOVE

A Christian Science treatment has to do with thought. Every thought we

think is contributing its share to the ultimate of our life. We are the custodian of our own mentality; we must choose each moment what to think. "God requires that which is past." Don't look back except to remember the good. Learn to forgive. "He that cannot forgive should be careful not to sin." We have to give up the error we thought even one second ago! Turn from it by the law of substitution, i.e., substitute a right thought. When error argues lack of time, discouragement, failure, defeat, etc., substitute eternity, gratitude, victory, triumph!

Christian Science practice needs the greatest self-discipline. Seek the understanding and wisdom to rebuke error. Have courage to speak the Truth, and the grace to remain silent when words are not needed. Moments come in life no words can explain. Their meaning can be articulated only by the inaudible language of the heart. (See Mis. 262:10; 100:19.) Practitioners talking on the telephone, know they are talking to themselves at the other end since there is only ONE. The awareness of Infinite Good does the healing.

Heaven or hell is determined by what goes on in our consciousness. Heaven and healing come as we entertain "the spirit of Truth and Love"; "the truthful arguments you employ" (S&H 418:22) will conquer the error. The only Mind there is, is our Mind. We must claim it, knowing now is the patient the Son of God. Now is the kingdom of God within him. The patient, every person, is God in disguise, God appearing as the person. NOW is the kingdom of God within the practitioner. Treatment blesses all concerned.

In reality the patient doesn't need healing, but the painful human sense cries out for help. It is the spiritual understanding of the practitioner that the patient is reaching for. The practitioner realizes that he must reduce a claim of any kind to a false belief; appearing where? Appearing at the door of the practitioner's own thought. He is never handling the patient's thought; he is handling false beliefs, over which he has dominion; he can refuse to give error reality. "With [our] stripes – the rejection of error – the [patient] is healed" (S&H 20:15) since "I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me."

The true idea of the universe and man enabled Jesus and Mrs. Eddy to embrace the universe in their consciousness, so they automatically governed it instead of letting it govern them. They "held fast that which is good." This is the sum total of demonstration. Infinite Good is All; there is nothing besides it.

Mrs. Eddy, speaking of Jesus' healing of the man born blind, made it clear that "neither hath this man sinned nor his parents" because **THEY WERE**

BOTH THE DIVINE MAN. So illuminating was Mrs. Eddy's explanation, that Mrs. Wilcox says for a long time she saw clearly that there was no such thing as a "sinning mortal man." Instead there was only the perfect man. Hypnotic suggestion alone makes it look material and in need of healing. She saw that her so-called matter man was the divine in reversion, or "seen through a glass darkly."

What we see as a disturbing factor (a sick body or lame hand or foot) is but the mental misperception of the perfection that is here and now. So we are not going to restore a body, a hand, or foot, to its normal harmony, function and purpose, but we are going to know that it is always whole, complete and perfect. We are going to realize there is nothing we have to do to make it so except realize this Truth, and then stand fast in spiritual identity.

To Mrs. Eddy sin, sickness, death were unreal. Once when a student asked Mrs. Eddy what she was doing, Mrs. Eddy said she was "reversing past experiences one by one." This insistence upon seeing only good as real is what made the world beautiful to Mrs. Eddy. She saw through the delusion of matter. Once she said, "I wish I could tell you what I see when I look at a rose."

"In Science, Mind [your Mind] is one, including noumenon and phenomena, God and His thoughts" (S&H 114:10). Why? Because infinite good, God, your real Mind, speaks, sees, knows, as man. When we become aware that "Soul [our true identity] and its attributes [are] forever manifested through man" – through that which expresses our Mind – we can heal the sick and give sight to the blind. (See S&H 210:11.) Isn't Mrs. Eddy here saying that we cannot separate cause from effect? – cannot separate God and man? Isn't effect where cause is? Doesn't this tell us we all must give up the belief that we are human beings, living a life separate from Infinite Good? Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy by their life and works presented to the world the Life that is God. They were the "light of the world," showing us now we too can be the light of the world.

Just think, if we really knew the truth that there is nothing "out there" to battle with – that we are only dealing with the belief of a supposititious mind at the door of our own thought – what joyous relief would be ours, knowing there is no sick man to be made well. Cast out the belief of dealing with persons, places, things, that we have to demonstrate over them. Do we demonstrate over $2 \times 2 = 5$? Shall we sleep as did the disciples, or stay awake, seeing the allness of Infinite Good? "Awake, thou that sleepest!"

Since “God [is] the Mind of man,” and “man has no Mind but God,” must not the individual mentality be God? Christian Science teaches us how to speak as one having authority – to accept the convictions of our own Mind as the facts of existence. We do not depend upon the words of others. We state the absolute truth about Infinite Good and its reflection, man, as it actually is in reality, in oneness. We know we are God in action; and we see the forms about us as the manifestations of living Spirit, as Mrs. Eddy did when she touched Adam Dickey’s arm and said: “Adam, this is Spirit,” and repeated several times, “You are Spirit.” Her spiritual perception gave her the transparency of consciousness through which she could see all is Spirit. Because “desire is prayer,” when you find yourself desiring, know the desire is already fulfilled in Mind or you could not desire it. Know you have already received it. Demonstration is only becoming conscious of the thing we desire, since all good is always at hand, just as $2 \times 2 = 4$ is always at hand. All good has existed eternally in reality - in our own right Mind; and realization or demonstration means reaching a point of conviction.

This is why as we “rise to the consciousness of Life as Love” and realize “Love alone is Life” (S&H 391:30 & Mis. 388:10) we can drop the term Life as the creator, since all has always existed, just as $2 \times 2 = 4$ has always existed. It was never created. It just is. In the textbook’s last chapter, “The Apocalypse,” Mrs. Eddy uses Truth and Love almost exclusively.

Mind is the power that forms the image, and gives that image form, outline, color. God, our Mind, is the only cause, and “God will heal [that is, reveal perfection] . . . through man whenever man is governed by God.” just as the mathematical principle will solve a problem when the pupil adheres to the principle. Man is the means by which Mind reflects its ideas in tangible form.

The basis of every Christian Science treatment is Jesus’ statement: “The kingdom of God is within you” – is within reach of man’s consciousness here, and the spiritual idea reveals it” (S&H 576:21). Therefore healing is nothing more than changing our consciousness to see that what is called man is always within Infinite Good’s allness. When we begin to comprehend the real man, the imperfect man disappears....

...INDULGENCE IN MATERIAL SENSE STOPS HEALING

Why do we so often fail in our treatments? It is not always because we anticipate a second cup of coffee with greater excitement than we do the Second Coming; it is more likely because the material sense of things seems so real, and we indulge it, wallowing in the gloom it brings.

To cure bodily disorders, Mr. Eustace, in *Clear, Correct Teaching*, gives this hint on healing: “Remember... the only thing that stops you from making Mind All-in-all is your indulgence in the human concept of things – in the finite personal sense of things. That indulgence stops perfect trust in God as All-in-all” (page 800). Mrs. Eddy defines your “I” on page 588:9 of the textbook. This “I” is your divine Self which is leading your human mind out of these indulgences, out of the belief of being a separate personality, apart from Infinite Good. The human mind is so occupied with the wrong teaching of the ages and its selfish indulgence of matter objects – the anti-Christ – that it has not become aware of the real omnipresent divine Self. But through the divine authority brought by Mrs. Eddy’s teaching, the spurious authority of the personality is being undermined and destroyed.

“PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF”

All a treatment can do is destroy the belief in disease and in evil. Whose belief is it? It is mortal mind’s belief. Where is it expressed? In the mind of the healer, until the healer has a clear, demonstrable realization that “entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine” (S&H 14:25). What practitioners have to do in every case, as they struggle in the pre-dawn hours to heal a patient, is to meet their own sense that there could be a matter man, a material body, that can become discordant, as Blanche Hersy Hogue once told me: This is surely what Jesus and Mrs. Eddy did, and taught their followers to do. What was Jesus doing in his forty days and nights in the wilderness? He was resisting evil, seeing its unreality. The present structure of human consciousness is convinced that matter is real. Therefore dehypnotizing our consciousness is the work facing us. “The whole conflict, the mighty struggle,” said Mrs. Hogue, “is going on right in your own consciousness.” We must resist evil, see its nothingness, until it dissolves the Adam dream. We all have our “wilderness” experience. For Christian Scientists the “wilderness” is 40 years or a lifetime of study of Mrs. Eddy’s writings and the Bible to learn our true identity.

Healing is the effect of our knowing subjectively that the oneness of the “patient” with Infinite Good is the present fact. It is because there is only one “I,” – and thus the “I” of the practitioner is also the I of the patient – that healing can take place in Christian Science. “He [Infinite Good] is my individuality and my Life” insisted Mrs. Eddy, (Un. 48:8; S&H 336:6).

HOW MRS. WILCOX RESTORED A DYING WOMAN

Mrs. Wilcox tells of a time in her early practice when she had a case that was passing on. Her teacher could not help her:

I was so overwhelmed with fear and grief that I went up into my attic, and the words on page 444:7-12 (S&H) came to me and I "turned from the lie of false belief to the truth of being" (ibid. 370:2) as never before, and that dying woman was released in my thought, as such, and she lived. She lived abundantly for thirteen years, and never needed another treatment.

Mrs. Eddy showed us that we must come to the place where we did not even desire to heal the sick, because if we desire to heal the sick we first have to believe there are sick mortals to be healed. We shall heal the so-called sick, instantly, when we understand man to be Gods presence. never mortal. never sick. As we gain that understanding, that understanding is the Christ or the real Self of us, and it could no more recognize sick mortals, as entities, than light can recognize darkness.

It is surely right to "heal the sick..." but we can only do this as we "cast the beam out of our own eye," that is, we are to become the consciousness that we have ever been, namely, so entire that there is no false sense in us. (Again, "physician, heal thyself.)

To restore the sick and sinning, Jesus – by the realization of what man actually is – healed himself of the belief there was a material man that could experience these maladies. You are Mind, Spirit, Soul – the nature of God – which constitutes the Principle that you are; and this Principle expresses itself as the Love that alone is Life and that forever embraces the Truth about all things.

When we, through an intense yearning for the guidance of Spirit, have destroyed our false sense of evil, we have done all that can be done, and all that is necessary. In mathematics, we would not attempt to thrust in our personal beliefs and opinions. We are content to observe the facts of the subject proving themselves as our consciousness enlarges. When we learned $2 \times 2 = 4$ and not 5, we did all we needed to do to correct the error. If we just knew the truth about ourselves as surely and fully as we know $2 \times 2 = 4$, nothing could harm us.

We must learn what our temptations and errors are, and seize the moment to battle down fear, impatience, frustration, anger, hurt feelings, and any other hypnotic shadow. Focus on the small stuff as well as the big. With ax in hand, challenge practices locked in decades of die-hard habits. To heal we must prevent evil suggestions from entering our thinking and face the snags of dimly discernible, deeply-rooted beliefs that are the obstacles to reform. “The warfare with one’s self is grand” (Mis. 118:25); through it we mentally join ourselves to Infinite Good. When we are conscious of our true Self as the divine Principle, Love, it will speak through us words of wisdom. And Love, the essence of this Infinite Good, will direct our lives.

To Frank Walter Gale, Mrs. Eddy wrote:

“The healing will grow easier and be more immediate as you realize that God, good, is all, and good is Love. You must gain Love, and lose the false sense called love. You must feel the Love that never faileth, – that perfect sense of divine power that makes healing no longer power but grace. Then you will have the Love that casts out fear. When fear is gone doubt is gone and your work is done. Why? because it was never undone. (We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, Second Series. p. 28).

Mrs. Eddy taught us the life of Love. “If you love, you can raise the dead. Love will heal death; that is the way I have raised the dead, by Love – by Love that is above the human.” Her love included the whole universe, and when everyone in the universe was included in this Love, there was no one to resist the omnipresence of present perfection.

Mrs. Mimms reports that in Mrs. Eddy’s last class she asked the students: “What is the best way to do instantaneous healing?” There were many answers. But when the students had given their answers, Mrs. Eddy said, “I will tell you the way to do it. It is to love! Just live Love – be it – Love, Love, Love. Do not know anything but Love. Be all Love. There is nothing else. That will do the work. It will heal everything; it will raise the dead. Be nothing but Love” (We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, Second Series).

“BE NOTHING BUT LOVE.” Mrs. Eddy knew it would not be easy. In my visits with Mr. Eustace he told me that one of Mrs. Eddy’s secretaries had on several occasions informed him of Mrs. Eddy’s distress, almost despair, when she thought of what would become of the Christian Scientists when she was no longer here to continually rouse them to wake up and be active in Truth. I heard the same report from Mr. Carpenter, Sr., and from Mr. Tomlinson in my visits with them.

Mrs. Eddy wanted us to be the voice of God, not just “listen” for God’s voice. If we are, then never doubt that Isaiah’s “small and feeble remnant” will prevail; never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, wise, committed truth-knowing citizens can change the world; it is the only thing that ever has.

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