

The
CORNERSTONE
of
Independent
Christian Science

*“The stone which the builders rejected
is become the head of the corner.”*

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September 2012
Number 150

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Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

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Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

If anyone is wondering,
this church is in no way affiliated with The
First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts

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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Following are excerpts from writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

Rest assured you can never lack God's outstretched arm so long as you are in His service.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Message for 1901*

History repeats itself; to-morrow grows out of to-day. But Heaven's favors are formidable: they are calls to higher duties, not discharge from care; and whoso builds on less than an immortal basis, hath built on sand.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Christian Healing*

The peace of Love is published, and the sword of the Spirit is drawn; nor will it be sheathed till Truth shall reign triumphant over all the earth.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellany*

I live with the Bible; I have not another thing on earth to be one with but the Bible and Science and Health.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Her Spiritual Footsteps*

The churches and the students must be secondary to the example of Jesus and, if he were here personally, to call upon his students, "Watch with me."

*Mary Baker Eddy
Watches Prayers Arguments*

Christian Science Treatment

Mary Baker Eddy

When we turn for power from matter to Spirit, we can move mountains, surmount obstacles, and achieve every success, and overcome fear and sin.

There is but one Infinity and that includes all. The action, force, and power of Truth is self-evident, self-sustaining; nothing can interfere with it; it is perfection, and life.

Every Christian Science treatment is accumulative; the work goes on to bless all mankind. Error is non-scientific thinking, and scientific thinking is all that is needed to destroy it. A treatment must include the realization that it goes forth with power and truth, and cannot be reversed. We must go ahead of error, and keep ahead of error all the way. Error is nothing but erroneous thought, and we must never give in to it or go down before it. The law of God includes a law that annuls every false claim, and we know it and must use it.

Mental activity must be tranquil — not lazy; it must express force, and it must know the reality of man's oneness with God, and the utter unreality of evil in all its forms of belief. Know that your treatments are good ones, and have no fear that they are not. A Christian Science treatment is never afraid it will not work.

Every pure thought falling silently and gently into human consciousness does its part in cleansing the whole world, just as every falling snowflake does its silent share in transforming the noisomeness of the grimy earth into a soft white blanket of purity. We must remember that the smallest truth is mightier than the greatest lie the world has ever known. The one is as enduring as eternity; the other is as transient as a shadow. Take from a lie its power to deceive and it becomes nothing.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

My Visit to Chestnut Hill

Florence Roberts

I was recently called for a work assignment in Chestnut Hill, Boston, near Longyear Museum. During my last week there, I had the opportunity to visit the Museum and also toured the last house Mrs. Eddy lived in before her passing in 1910.

The tour started with about six people, two of whom were not Christian Scientists but were interested in this great woman who did so many wonderful things in her time. The house is a grand, granite, rather imposing mansion. I was not surprised to see the very large kitchen, oversized parlors, and the faded beauty of some of the original wallpapers and carpets.

Most of us were anxious to see Mrs. Eddy's bedroom. We toured the different rooms: the large dining room, the studies and rooms of the secretaries. Calvin Frye's (who worked faithfully for 28 years) room and study were of particular interest to me, because I read in some of the biographies that Mrs. Eddy would at times call on some of her most spiritually minded workers to work metaphysically to support her when faced with certain challenges. Calvin Frye was often called upon to do such work; so it was interesting to see that his room was in closest proximity to Mrs. Eddy's.

The lounge chaise she used in the evenings when she would look out and pray for the world was still in a room on the second floor, with large windows facing east. The dining room, other rooms used by Mrs. Eddy's personal attendant, other workers and even the room where the seamstress made clothes for Mrs. Eddy and other household members, all gave a vivid insight into the daily life of this extraordinary woman.

The room of most interest and the one that had the

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most reaction from everyone was Mrs. Eddy's bedroom. It was the size that got everyone talking. To see that in this huge mansion, her bedroom could only fit a bed and a dresser spoke volumes! Most of us questioned this and made our own conclusions. But what later dawned on me was the spiritual significance of the size of the room: All I could feel was that here was a truly selfless woman whose mission had never been to satisfy self. She gave up all for Christ; to the extent that even in her later years when money was abundant in her life, the size of her room summed up what her heart was after; laboring in complete obedience to God, not for self, but for the glory of God and to bless mankind.

My eyes well up thinking about her spirituality and the depth of her love for God and man. The tour brought the deepest respect, admiration, and love for Mrs. Eddy, for what she stood and fought for to bring the Comforter to mankind.

Such was her sacrifice; it makes me question what I am to do as my God-given part in this holy mission for God and mankind.



As the morning sun shines out it's glorious rays,
God takes our hand and leads us in His way.
Each day's a perfect unfoldment,
What more could we ask?
Thank you, God, for the strength
To perform each appointed task.

Lillian Linnell

“Comfort Ye My People”

If one lives rightly, every effort to hurt one will only help that one; for God will give the ability to overcome whatever tends to impede progress.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellaneous Writings*

Animal magnetism is powerless — but you must declare against it as though it had all power.

Mary Baker Eddy

Do not say to error, “You cannot harm me,” but declare that God protects me from all attacks of error.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

From a letter dated 1895

May the light of divine Love so illumine your mind that you behold yourself in His likeness, even as you are, — the image of perfect Mind. Thus, will you find all power, wisdom and peace in goodness, and demonstrate the grace of Spirit as ever sufficient to help you in every time of need.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Christian Science Sentinel 1936*



Little Brown Duck, Shingebiss A Chippewa Indian Tale

In his lodge on the shores of Lake Huron lived little brown duck, Shingebiss. When the fierce North Wind swept down from the glittering land of Snow, four great logs for firewood had little brown duck, Shingebiss.

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Brave and cheery was Shingebiss. No matter how the North Wind raged, he waddled out across the ice and found what food he needed. Pulling up the frozen rushes that grew in this little pond, he dived down through the holes they left and got his fish for supper. Then away to his lodge he went, dragging a string of fish behind him. By his blazing fire, he cooked his fish for supper and made himself warm and cozy.

At last the North Wind shrieked: "Woo-oo-oo! Who dares brave Big Chief North Wind? All other creatures fear him. Only brown duck, Shingebiss, treats Big Chief North Wind as if he were a squaw-breeze!"

So the North Wind sent cold, icy blasts, and he made high drifts of snow, till not a bird or beast dared venture forth, save Shingebiss. Shingebiss still went out just as he had before and paid no heed to the weather. He got his fish every day, cooked his supper every night, and warmed himself by his fire. "Ah!" raged Big Chief North Wind, "little brown duck, Shingebiss, cares not for snow or ice! North Wind will freeze his holes, so he can get no food; then Big Chief will conquer him!" So the North Wind froze the holes where the little brown duck fished and heaped his pond with snow.

But when Shingebiss found his holes closed so he could not reach the water, he did not even murmur. He just went cheerily on till he found another pond on which there was no snow. Then he pulled up the rushes there and made new holes for himself through which he could do his fishing.

"Brown Duck shall know who is Chief!" the North Wind howled in anger and, for days and days and days, he followed the little brown duck. He froze up his holes in the ice and covered his ponds with snow.

But Shingebiss walked forth fearlessly, just as he had

“Comfort Ye My People”

before. He always got a few fish before each hole was frozen, and he still went cheerily home every night dragging his fish with him.

“Woo-woo-woo!Woo-woo-woo!” The North Wind now roared in fury. “Big Chief will go to the lodge of little brown duck, Shingebiss. Big Chief will blow in his door, sit down by his side, and breathe icy breath till he freezes.”

Now Shingebiss at that moment had just eaten his supper and he was sitting cozily warming his little webbed feet by the blaze of his bright burning fire.

Carefully holding his breath, so Shingebiss should not hear him, quietly, very quietly, North Wind crept up to the lodge. But Shingebiss felt the icy cold come in through the cracks of the door.

“I know who is there,” he thought. And begin to sing sturdily:

“Ka-neej, Ka-neej,
Bee-in, Bee-in,
Bon-in, Bon-in,
Ok-ee, Ok-ee,
Ka-weya, Ka-weya!”

And the North Wind knew he was saying:

“North Wind, North Wind, fierce in feature,
You are still my fellow creature;
Blow your worst, you can’t freeze me;
I fear you not, and so I’m FREE!”

Then the North Wind was raging, but he kept his voice to a whisper and he said: “Big Chief will freeze him!”

So North Wind crept under the door, he slipped up behind little Shingebiss, and sat down by the fire. Now Shingebiss knew he was there, but he paid no heed at all. He kept singing louder:

“Ka-neej! Ka-neej!
Bee-in, Bee-in.”

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“Big Chief will stay till he freezes,” whistled the fierce North Wind, and he breathed his iciest breath. But at that moment, Shingebiss leaned over and stirred his fire. A shower of sparks leaped up and the log glowed ruddy gold.

The North Wind’s frosty hair began all at once to drip, his icy face started to drip, the tears ran down his cheeks, the mighty puff of his breath grew fainter and fainter and fainter. But Shingebiss still sat warming his little webbed feet by the blaze and he still continued to sing:

“North Wind, North Wind, fierce in feature,
You are still my fellow creature.”

At length the North Wind gave a shriek. “Big Chief is melting!” he cried. And he rushed headlong through the doorway and flung himself on a snow bank.

“Strange little brown duck, Shingebiss,” he murmured weakly to himself. “Big Chief North Wind can’t starve him, can’t freeze him, can’t make him afraid! Ugh! North Wind will let him alone. The Great Spirit is with him.”

*Excerpted from “My Book House,”
Edited by Olive Beaupre Miller*



We should go forth into life with the smallest expectations, but with the largest patience; with a keen relish for and appreciation of everything beautiful, great, and good, but with a temper so genial that the friction of the world shall not wear upon our sensibilities; with an equanimity so settled that no passing breath nor accidental disturbance shall agitate or ruffle it; with a charity broad enough to cover the whole world’s evil, and sweet enough to neutralize what is bitter in it.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellaneous Writings*

“Comfort Ye My People”

Handling Mental Malpractice

Martha Wilcox

We must make nothing of mortal beliefs and mental malpractice. See the nothingness of these bland or aggressive denials of Truth and handle them with ever increasing intelligence and effectiveness. But at the same time, let us be wise in dealing with them.

Evil or error or belief is not something, but is always nothing. It is not something that one fights or rejects or ejects. If we have something that we must reject or struggle

**... realize the
mighty power
of thought re-
flected from
God ...**

to eject, we are making a reality of it. It is incorrect, not to say foolish, to imagine all sorts of evil, and then to proceed to work against the creations of our own imagination!

Each student should realize the mighty power of his own thought reflected from God and from no other source. We as students of Christian Science, are demonstrating the scientific Truth of the omnipotence of God, and we should never allow any fear of any opposition to enter our thought. If we let in fear of some opposition, we mesmerize ourselves in the name of a supposed foe. Then we feel the effects of our own fear and lack of belief in the supremacy of God. To know that there is one Power, and this the power of God, should be an ever present fact to us. The only carnal sense we have to overcome is our own. We never need to be troubled with the sense of some external power.

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

An honest admission of sin or mistake is the only possible beginning of redemption.

Blanche Hersey Hogue

We often hear people ask why God sent sin upon the world. The fact is that He didn't. God's work is the healing of the sick and the banishing of evil. Everyone who is doing something honestly to get away from evil and make the world better and brighter is doing God's work.

Rev. Murray Bartlett

What is it that has been hidden from the ages? Man's oneness with God. “Look unto me, and live.” This is the one thing; and it is surely coming. The kingdom of heaven, as Jesus said, is within you, and no one has power over you. What is faith? Understanding. What is understanding? Your oneness with God. Herein lies healing power.

Rev. E. Morgan Isaac

Christian Science never ignores shortcomings, inequalities, or any errors, but heals them.

Mabel Alberta Spicer

Be of good cheer; the warfare with one's self is grand; it gives one plenty of employment, and the divine Principle worketh with you — and obedience crowns persistent effort with everlasting victory.

Mary Baker Eddy

Miscellaneous Writings



Comparisons that Are Vain

Willis F. Gross

Christian Science teaches that evil is not to be indulged or ignored. Evil must be recognized, and it must be dealt with.

The wise man said: “He that covereth his sins shall not

“Feed My Sheep”

prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” This is the only right method. Error that is covered up, excused, or justified, is not destroyed. Error must be recognized and forsaken.

In the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, the Master illustrates the great difference between the prayer which avails, and the prayer which receives no reward. The Pharisee prayed, “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, . . . or even as this publican.”

Error that is covered up, excused, or justified, is not destroyed.

The publican, realizing his great need of help, prayed, “God be merciful unto me a sinner.” He had come face-to-face with his errors, and he did not attempt to excuse them. His sincere desire was that he might be saved. The

Master declared that he “went down to his house justified rather than the other.”

No doubt this publican could have convinced himself that, with all his faults, he was still better than many people; but he evidently had no desire to compare himself with others. When he compared what he *was* with what he *should be*, then he realized how great was his need of divine aid. The sincere desire for good, regardless of what others have or have not attained, is the true prayer which always “availeth much.” In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy writes, “When the publican’s wail went out to the heart of Love, it won his humble desire.”

We read in the Scriptures that “God is no respecter of persons,” and in Christian Science there is no authority for comparing one person with another, or of comparing the importance of the work accomplished by different individuals. How much one may have accomplished, or how necessary or important may be the work he is called upon to

perform, "no man knoweth." Every man's work is important, and his reward is in proportion to his faithfulness.



Today

S. Ella Shelhamer

Mankind generally accepts the belief that past circumstances can affect our lives today. But no past has ever had the power to destroy one iota of good! All good, all that ever was or ever can be, exists here and now.

Paul says, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Forget the past! Instead, we should be

We should be willing to let the fires die out after we have come safely through the furnace of affliction.

so fully occupied in joyfully living our understanding of Christian Science that there is no time for foolish regrets and yearnings.

Error never was true; so why rehearse a lie by talking about it or thinking about it? We should be willing to let the fires die out after we have come safely through the furnace of affliction.

The truth is that nothing ever happened but God's goodness, mercy, and justice; and this is what we should remember, and forget that which never was! Gratitude for progress and growth is a healthy thing, but dwelling on the past would rob us of present good.

To be healed in Christian Science does not mean that we have been healed of real diseases, real sins and sorrows, but only of our false belief in them. When we have once proved a belief to be false, we should never be trapped into referring to it as ever having been true.

“Feed My Sheep”

Mary Baker Eddy writes, “There was never a moment in which evil was real.” (No and Yes) Then if evil was never real in the past, it is not real today, nor can it be in the future. The truth is that now is the only time there ever was or ever will be, and that it abounds with blessings!



Cleansing Fires

Ethel Munro Goss

Spiritual growth may sometimes seem to be gained by suffering. But the process that removes the dross from the gold, never injures the gold; but reveals it in all its pristine purity.

Whatever our difficulty may seem to be, it arises from a belief in an existence apart from God. We do not have to struggle to make the human into the divine — that would be impossible; but we must let the divine overcome the human, just as light overcomes darkness.

**the process
that removes
the dross from
the gold, never
injures the gold;
but reveals it in
all its pristine
purity.**

Suffering is not necessarily a sign of progress. Two people may go through similar experiences, and one may be purified, while the other seems to be embittered. It is not the experience alone which purifies; the purification is the result of our mental attitude towards the experience. If we approach each problem with the certainty that it is an opportunity to learn more of the Christ-idea, our problems will become glorious steppingstones to a fuller understanding of the allness of good.

The Christian Science Weekly

This section contains excerpts from The Christian Science Weekly, which was first published in 1898, and later was re-named the Christian Science Sentinel.

The following poem by Mary Baker Eddy appeared in the first issue.

A DEDICATORY POEM By MARY BAKER G. EDDY

Thou All in All, of every age,
And rising, radiant sphere —
Help us to write a deathless page
Of truth — this waning year.

Help us to humbly seek and sow
And reap Thy wise behest —
Whate'er the boon, a joy, or woe —
Knowing Thou knowest best.

Aid the soul-sense to soar and sing
Above the tempest's glee;
Give us the eagle's fearless wing,
The dove's to mount to Thee.

All-Merciful, how faint, unfed,
Is every hungry heart.
Give us each day our daily bread,
In knowing what Thou art.

PLEASANT VIEW, CONCORD, N.H., August, 1898.

One Man's Search for God

An article in the first issue of the *Christian Science Weekly*, by Charles Edward Riedlinger, tells of his journey to find Truth and God. His search began with the Roman Catholic church of his mother, which caused him "much mental anguish." He studied all the Protestant churches, ending with the Congregational church. He "drifted into the religions of the Orient, and found them barren." He studied Theosophy and Spiritualism, then, discouraged, turned to hypnotism.

At this point in his life, he came upon *Science and Health*, read it from cover to cover, and exclaimed, "This is Truth! I will follow." He writes, "As I look back over those years, I am glad for their experience, for out of much tribulation have I learned God.

"Spiritualism would keep us in subjection to many spirits, good and evil, while Christian Science holds us in one divine Love. Hypnotism would communicate and force suggestion into its subject, while Christian Science knows that we are all the reflection of the one perfect Mind, hence we need not transmit suggestions of health and harmony, for they are man's *natural* habitat, and need only be discovered to him. Theosophy would have us waste our time in speculation on future lives, whereas Christian Science is a *present* help, and by it we live this life so that the future may take care of itself.

"Dear reader, if you are drifting, come to my weather-beaten boat, and it will land you on the shore 'Gainst which the winds and waves can shock, Oh, nevermore!"



Youth Restored

The following short article, reproduced from an issue of the New York Journal, appeared in the second issue of the Christian Science Weekly. It shows nothing is impossible to God!

TRENTON, N.J., August 1, 1898.—Mrs. Lydia Parsons, the ninety-nine-year-old woman who is showing signs of returning youth, goes right on growing young. “I used to be a rheumatic once in a while when the weather got damp, but I’ve got all over that now. I never have an aching bone, any more, and I can walk as easily as I ever could.” For nearly twenty years, Mrs. Parsons wore spectacles, and the lenses were strong. Even then it was with difficulty that she read the Bible, to which she is warmly devoted. Suddenly her eyesight returned, and she is able to read without glasses as easily as she could when she was a girl. For twelve years she was deaf, only the loudest tone of voice was audible to her; but with the return of the sense of sight came the faculty of hearing, and to-day she can detect a whisper across the room; and now, to make the remarkable case more remarkable, lines of black are creeping into her hair, which was pure white.—*New York Journal*.



Blessings continually come from God,
This is true for you and me.
Expect only good, never doubt;
This keeps the heart open to receive.

Lillian Linnell

Announcements

Bible Study

We hold a Bible Study each Saturday at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference. Details are on the Website. Contact the church if you do not have access to the Website.

The Overwhelming Evidence

We have printed a new version of this inspiring booklet, in a larger, more readable format. It was written by Ralph Spencer, and is a collection of events in the life of Mary Baker Eddy, as related by people who were close to her. It also includes some wonderful healings that she accomplished. The cost is \$6.00 per copy.

Audio Recordings of Science and Health

We are happy to announce that we have produced audio recordings of Science and Health on CD. On them, Science and Health is beautifully and understandingly read by Andrew Kidd, who served as Reader in Plainfield Church for ten years. His experience and great love for Mary Baker Eddy and her revelation makes for a powerful listening experience, even for those familiar with the textbook. The cost is \$7.00 per CD, or \$85 for the set of 21 CDs.

Christian Science in Germany

We have published a newly typeset version of the inspiring book, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN GERMANY, by Frances Thurber Seal, in paperback form. This book tells of her experience in bringing Christian Science to Germany in 1897. She had found Christian Science less than a year before, and didn't speak a word of German. Yet through her love and faithfulness to God, she was able to bring Christian Science to Germany, teaching classes to people from all over Europe. The price is \$6.00.

Full-Text Version of Plainfield Lessons

The Plainfield Church produces our independent Lesson Sermons in full-text booklet form. Each 8 1/2 x 11 inch

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booklet contains the full-text Lessons for one month. It fits easily within a briefcase or large purse. This offers a convenient, attractive alternative to carrying your marked lesson books when traveling. Each one-month issue is \$7.00, a 3-month subscription is \$19.00, a 6-month subscription is \$36.00, and a 12-month subscription is \$65.00, within the USA; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

Church Services Available by Phone

Our Sunday and Wednesday church services can now be heard by telephone. If you don't have a computer and would like to listen to our services live, contact Plainfield Church for dial-in information. You will be provided with a toll-free phone number, and a pass code. This will connect you to a teleconference service which broadcasts our services at the time they are being held. Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday services 8:15 p.m. The services are preceded by 5-10 minutes of music, and you are invited to dial in early to hear this prelude.

Our Roundtable is also available, live and recorded, via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

We invite everyone to join in, sing the hymns with us, and participate in the Roundtable.

Testimonies Given by Phone

Anyone from out of town is now able, through our teleconference feature, to give a testimony live during our Wednesday services from their telephone. If you are interested, please contact the church for the toll-free phone number, code, and instructions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Live Services on the Internet

Have you heard our live services on the Internet? Plainfield

Announcements

Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday adult class, live on the Internet. Recorded versions of these services are available on our Web site at any time. Just log on to plainfieldcs.com, and join our congregation. We look forward to welcoming you!

Web Site

Our Web site, plainfieldcs.com, is constantly being updated with fresh, inspired thoughts, articles, services, and Lessons. It even includes a Lesson forum area to post comments about the Lesson. Please check it out, and leave a comment if you wish!

Plainfield Independent Quarterly

The Plainfield Church publishes its own Lesson Sermon Quarterly, based entirely on the Bible and Science and Health. A one-year subscription costs \$11.00. A single issue costs \$5.00. Subscriptions to overseas and Canada cost \$19.00.

CornerStone Subscriptions

The CornerStone is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The subscription rate to the U.S.A. is \$20.00 for one year. Single copies cost \$5.00. One-year subscriptions to Canada cost \$27.00, and international \$35.00.

Plainfield Independent Newsletter

The Plainfield Church Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December. It is available to members of Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, free of charge.

New Members Are Welcome!

Do you love Christian Science, and wish to see it prosper and go forward? Then we invite you most lovingly to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

Letters from Readers

Thank you, Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, for truly being “The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.” (S&H)

I am very grateful to be a member of the Plainfield Church. It is so thankfully different from the Boston Christian Science Churches. The love, enthusiasm, and honesty expressed by this church is what brought me back to Christian Science years ago.

California

Thank you all so much for the July CornerStone. It is wonderful! I love the articles! I started to read it and could not put it down until I read the whole thing. Now I am looking forward to re-reading it later today.

Florida

The Website is wonderful! I am so grateful for the daily watches. They are such a blessing.

For over a year, I awake between 2:00-3:00 a.m. and have learned through Plainfield Church the importance to work for the world, our nation, and mankind. After my work is complete, I fall back to sleep.

Mississippi

Much love to the church members, and gratitude for all you are doing on behalf of Mrs. Eddy's directives from God.

Switzerland

My heart is overflowing with gratitude to God and to each one of you for the enlightening Roundtable discussions; a gift to all of us. I am so happy that I am able to hear them again on the recording.

Our Lessons are always great and so well read by our

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Readers. Our services are always so full of joy. As I look back over the years of going to church, I can truly say, before Plainfield, I never looked forward to Sunday as I do now. And I must not forget to thank you all for the Bible discussions on Saturday morning. Absolutely wonderful!! You are all one of God's many blessings in so many lives.

Illinois

Studying the Lesson and choosing a statement from it to work with during the day has been so helpful. While praying, those angel thoughts help me with whatever arises during the day.

Thank you, Plainfield, for all I've learned and the blessings that follow.

Alabama

With sincere gratitude for all the good that continues to come out of the Plainfield Christian Science ministry. It's not every day that you find a website with individuals working tirelessly to share the Truth with the world.

Georgia

I would like to say how thankful I am for the Sunday service, including the readings and the quartet singing. The entire service is a gem, and I am filled with gratitude for having found this church. I'm also enjoying the reading of testimonies from Fruitage by various members of the congregation; such a beautiful addition to the Sunday service.

I love how, here at Plainfield, we have the freedom to add to the church service as God directs and are not yoked to a particular formula. It makes the service so vibrant. A true demonstration of unfoldment. I've attended Christian Science churches most of my life and can truly say that what we have here at Plainfield is simply precious. Words

CornerStone

can't describe my joy at having been led to this church.

Thank you to everyone for all you do to keep Christian Science alive and vital.

Maryland

It is with great joy and gratitude I send this contribution. I truly love tithing. It makes me feel so much more consistent with my being a member. And of course, an extra prayer for all of you dear ones, comes from my heart.

Words can never express my gratitude to God for all my blessings and for leading me to Plainfield.

God bless you all.

Illinois

Thank you for shining the beacon of light that is Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. That light is my lifeline as an out-of-towner. Through your use of technology with the website and conference calling, I feel more like I'm in the next room, rather than on the West Coast. I have been able to give testimonies on Wednesdays and participate in the Sunday Roundtables.

Thank you so much for all that you're doing to bring true Christian Science to the world. I enclose my monthly contribution.

California

I want to thank everyone for this website, for what you are doing, and also for the complimentary gift package. We've been exploring everything. The Roundtable discussions are very enlightening, and the Cain and Abel Bible lesson met a current need by answering some things that were before obscure. To show our initial gratitude, we ordered a bunch of other stuff!

Pennsylvania

I just got online again, and am glad to be in touch again with your website. There are so many good features and

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things to select on it, and it doesn't feel overwhelming, but like a great feast of God's love.

Thanks again for all that you are doing. *Iowa*

Once again I wish to thank you all for what you are doing in the name of Christian Science.

I have greatly appreciated all the fine literature that I have received, and especially what the early workers in Christian Science have left us.

Much love to all the members and the practitioners, who stand by lovingly to help us.

God bless you all. *Illinois*

Please accept the enclosed contribution in support of your fantastic outreach to the world through an ever-improving website, without which we could not attend church every week. It is our lifeline!

Thank you for all that you are doing to promote Mary Baker Eddy's pure, unadulterated Christian Science.

Vermont

Thank you for a wonderful Sunday service, including the reading of "Rheumatism Healed" from the section "Fruitage" in Science and Health. I have always loved the testimonies found there, as they are a testament to the availability and practicality of Christian Science to all mankind. Those who wrote these letters were all in very dire straits; they imbibed the truths in Science and Health, found the answer needed, and their lives were transformed.

Thank you for adding this new light of inspiration to the service, to shine out to the world.

Virginia

I want to express thanks and gratitude for the practitioner help I've received for quite awhile. Also, I am thankful

CornerStone

for your publications. The inspired Lesson Sermons are so comforting, and yet challenging, too. I recognize that they come about as the result of demonstration. I sincerely do not know of any other church like Plainfield, and the teaching in the Saturday Bible Class and the Sunday Roundtable. I have been finding them to be indispensable.

I love the Wednesday evening testimonies, both from the congregation and the out-of-town members. The readings are superb and so are the related hymns. To think, “my blind eyes” had not seen all the good that God provides in your church ministry and outreach. My life has truly been changed for the better, even though there is so much more work to do.

With heartfelt thanks.

Iowa

Sometimes it's a little hard to get in queue to express my thanks on Wednesday evenings, so I thought I'd send a note to make sure you all know how grateful I am that you are there with the fabulous website content, amazing services, and of course the practitioner support. It has been such a blessing to me to be involved this past year, and to have found you all in the first place!

Enclosed is my donation to the church to help keep all the good flowing. I can't wait to visit and meet everyone in person.

Much love.

Georgia

What you are doing as an independent Christian Science Church is an inspiration. It is hoped that all Christian Science churches will see the light. Just as mathematics and music are open to all good thinkers, so should be Christian Science. We will be visiting your website often.

E-mail

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

Nothing is more antagonistic to Christian Science than a blind belief without understanding, for such a belief hides Truth and builds on error.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Science and Health*



Real Christian Science

Lenni Moore

I was raised in Christian Science, served in branch churches, took class instruction from a well-regarded teacher — everything I thought I was supposed to do to understand what it takes to be a “good” Christian Scientist and an effective healer.

A horrible personal crisis showed me that all of the above had left me utterly unequipped and ignorant of the real Science Mrs. Eddy discovered. The Boston-based practitioners and teachers also weren’t up to the task of helping me. It wasn’t until I found Plainfield Church that I started to see everything that had been missing.

Most of the people in the mainstream movement just ignore the error and leave it unhandled. But where does Mrs. Eddy tell us to make peace with the devil (evil)? Where does she tell us to pray for evil or heal evil? She doesn’t. We don’t. We impersonalize it and destroy it. And we can’t destroy it if we don’t recognize it, call it out, and handle it.

There are a lot of people, like myself, who have recently come out of the Boston culture and just started to learn what real Christian Science is, and to recognize the difference between what comes out of Boston and what Mrs. Eddy taught her students. I am grateful for the teaching I get in this church — especially when it’s juxtaposed against what the Boston Christian Science culture teaches — because it keeps me on the straight and narrow path!

Right Practice

Shahidat Abbas

Years ago, prior to my coming to the Plainfield Church, I was diagnosed with a thyroid condition. I called a Journal-listed practitioner for help; and while the lady was exceedingly nice, I remember feeling very put off by the pity in her voice. She was clearly trying to be compassionate, but all it did was make me feel absolutely miserable, and there was definitely no bite or fire when it came to dealing with the physical issue. Because of my discontent, I ended up leaving that practitioner and working with other Journal-listed practitioners, but the condition had to be treated medically before I found relief.

After I came to the Plainfield Church and started working with a Plainfield practitioner, the difference was tangible. For example, last week I called my Plainfield practitioner after experiencing some pains while doing the nightly church watch. While he was pleasant enough on the phone, he was absolutely fierce in handling the error. He said that it was an aggressive mental suggestion claiming to be something, when it was actually nothing. Under no circumstances did I need to accept this suggestion as reality, and then turn around and try to heal it — which is absolutely ludicrous. Mrs. Eddy emphasizes repeatedly the importance of handling aggressive mental suggestion wherever it may be found, and she, herself, was a constant terror to error — clearly following the Master's example.

I am very grateful to have access to such a high quality of teaching and practitioner help here in the Plainfield Church. I can honestly say that had I not been led to Plainfield, I would have drifted far away from the Christian Science movement by now.

Overview of Mary Baker Eddy's Message for 1901

Andrew Kidd

In reading aloud and recording Mary Baker Eddy's Message for 1901 (found in Prose Works) in the holy atmosphere of our church auditorium, it became clear that so little of what our Leader has left us is actually reaching her students. In an effort to correct this, and to encourage a closer look, we will select one item from her Prose Works and highlight it in each issue of the Cornerstone — beginning with her Message for 1901. Here are some key points:

1. Addressing the misconception that, with the Bible and Science and Health as our Pastor, the Christian Scientist has no personal preacher:

“To my sense the Sermon on the Mount, read each Sunday without comment and obeyed throughout the week, would be enough for Christian practice. The Word of God is a powerful preacher, and it is not too spiritual to be practical, nor too transcendental to be heard and understood. Whosoever saith there is no sermon without personal preaching, forgets what Christian Scientists do not, namely, that God is a Person, and that he should be willing to hear a sermon from his personal God!”

2. Addressing the Christian world's great discomfort with the position that evil is unreal:

“Do Christian Scientists believe that evil exists? We answer, Yes and No! Yes, inasmuch as we do know that evil, as a false claim, false entity, and utter falsity, does exist in thought; and No, as something that enjoys, suffers, or is *real*. Our only departure from ecclesiasticism on this subject is, that our faith takes hold of the fact that evil cannot be made so real as to frighten us and so master us, or to make us love it and so hinder our way to holiness. We re-

gard evil as a lie, an illusion, therefore as unreal as a mirage that misleads the traveler on his way home.”

3. Admonishing those students who are too quick to declare that evil is unreal:

“The evil-doer receives no encouragement from my declaration that evil is unreal, when I declare that he must awake from his belief in this awful unreality, repent and forsake it, in order to understand and demonstrate its unreality. Error uncondemned is not nullified. We must condemn the claim of error in every phase in order to prove it false, therefore unreal.”

4. Warning how deadly it is to indulge in misleading others:

“The mental malpractitioner is not, cannot be, a Christian Scientist; he is disloyal to God and man; he has every opportunity to mislead the human mind, and he uses it. People may listen complacently to the suggestion of the inaudible falsehood, not knowing what is hurting them or that they are hurt. This mental bane could not bewilder, darken, or misguide consciousness, physically, morally, or spiritually, if the individual knew what was at work and his power over it.

“This unseen evil is the sin of sins; it is never forgiven.”

As we look more closely at Mrs. Eddy’s body of work, we find this great woman constantly admonishing her students for their lack of handling sin in themselves, and clarifying misunderstandings, and then defending herself and her Revelation from the perpetual attacks from the baser elements outside the Christian Science movement. As we are more attuned to this, we will gain so much more practical knowledge in our striving to practice Christian Science.

The Independent Lesson Forum

If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to plainfieldcs.com and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered around our weekly Lesson. The individuality of the contributors is wonderfully evident. Those who participate find that it brings greater depth to the study of the Lesson. It provides an opportunity to ask questions, and share with others ideas that have been revealed to you in your study. Everyone is welcome to join in. We would love to hear from you!

The following is a sample of submissions from the Lesson, "Substance."

After Gideon and his men defeated the Midianites, the children of Israel wanted Gideon to be their king. *"And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you."* Jud. 8:23

Gideon acknowledges God's power in their victory over the Midianites, gives glory to God, and assures his people of God's everlasting government. A great lesson that, at all times and under all circumstances, I must trust that God alone rules. Trusting this has brought amazing outcomes in my human experience. It's wonderful when rulers know that there is indeed one Supreme Ruler!

Response:

So glad you pointed this out. Here we are getting ready to elect a new president, and there is much fear about the future of our country. Let's replace the fear with reliance on God and his governing power. There is only one Mind.

Response:

I thought it was fascinating that, after the battle in which only 300 men defeated the Midianite army, the men of Israel still didn't get it. They still wanted a man to rule over them.

It made me think of the Christian Science organization. After Mrs. Eddy passed, too many were all too willing to let the Board of Directors in Boston rule over them (and they, in this case, were willing to accept the offer). Mrs. Eddy foresaw this and designed the Manual, with its estoppel clauses, to prevent it. Every Christian Scientist should be as bold as Gideon — refusing to rule or be ruled by man! We can certainly be so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for everything she has given to mankind.

Speaking of presidents, I have read that at the end of the Revolutionary War, several people wanted to make George Washington a king, rather than create a republic. Washington, however, like Gideon, refused. He had seen the power of God operate in his life, especially with the winning of a war that seemed absolutely hopeless at times, and he knew, better than others, that it was time to create a government based on the rule of law. It was a huge step in the history of mankind toward the rule by God. We should be so grateful to our founding fathers for their wisdom and Christian character that created our Constitution and Declaration of Independence! It provided the legal protection that was necessary for the discovery and founding of Christian Science by Mrs. Eddy.

“And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.”

The Independent Lesson Forum

I totally love this story of Gideon! The human mind so much wants to claim all the credit and leave God (who has done it all!) out of the picture. So when the odds are completely stacked against you, when there is *no* way you can claim a smidgeon of success without God's help, when you are feeling totally helpless without Him — that is the time He can come in and take charge with absolute authority and victory! "Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory and the victory"! And that is the only place where any real victory ever lies!

Response:

Perhaps this is the biggest danger of the medical — by his/her own admission, a good doctor recognizes that he only aids, encourages, lessens fear, patches up — the real healing is through God. But look at the hysteria surrounding drug taking, health insurance, etc. — where is God? It is common for an employee to be more concerned about health benefits than any other aspect of his working conditions!!! This is an indication of a society lost in the fear of Godlessness.

This is the vacuum that true, honest Christian Science is here to fill. We have our work to do, but as illustrated in this story of Gideon, "if God be for us, who can be against us." We are His servants. He is the doer!

Response:

The Bible says that "man's extremity is God's opportunity." Unfortunately, too often folks are not ready to rely on God until it becomes obvious that only with God's help can the victory possibly be achieved. Imagine the good that could be accomplished if we consistently turned to God first and not wait till the point of extremity.

“The World Has Need of You”

This section of our magazine features statements and articles of Truth to help us in our prayer for the world.

The price of Truth is hourly devotion, cheerful sacrifice, toil, and irrepressible conflict. Are you willing to work for your own self-advancement, and for the good of others, or do you think a few tireless laborers must or can do your work for you, and then you receive from a just God the wages you have not earned, and which is given to him who hath labored, and accordingly as he has labored?

*Mary Baker Eddy
Essays and Other Footprints*

Civilization and government are ideas of Mind and must eventually spring from within. Our Science teaches that man, self-governed by divine Principle, is ideal government. This Mind of government is neither capitalistic nor communistic but is exclusively and inclusively Christian. This real government seems quite remote, if we look to the testimony of the senses, but looking within, each one of us may establish divine government, and each one of us may exemplify divine government, and in so doing we hasten divine government for all mankind.

*Martha Wilcox
Addresses*



Prayer for Those in Authority

Bicknell Young

Anybody who is familiar with the conditions which beset legislative bodies in the world today knows that such bodies are constantly subject to mental suggestion of all kinds.

“The World Has Need of You”

This is particularly true with the Congress of the United States, due to the belief of a vast country with innumerable and varied interests which appear to conflict with each other.

If these are the beliefs, and if we admit that they are contrary to the welfare of mankind, Christian Scientists should do something about them, and happily they are able to do much. They know that anything coming within the range of their consciousness can be dealt with, and

**... the Infinite
Mind is govern-
ing even your
Congress, your
country, your
world.**

they should know that the seeming magnitude of the claim has no terrors for them.

In every instance where you find Congress being influenced in such ways as are apparently unwise and absurd, you will sometimes find that if you recognize that, “Here is a false claim of a will apart from God, and a desire to accomplish the will of greed, and envy, and perhaps mad ambition and pride, in operation hypnotically,” and you make a denial of that, you will find that you are helpful.

You are not required to treat all the Congressmen. The fact that is important is that you handle your own sense of the thing that you have read about, or heard about, and begin to establish for yourself the fact that the Infinite Mind is governing even your Congress, your city if you like, your country, your world.

It is not an effort on your part to impose your own opinion upon anybody. It is your divine understanding, the Christ redeeming the world, overcoming evil, bringing to light the naturalness of Good in behalf even of those who at present do not know there is any Good.

God's Promises Are Kept

Gary Singleterry

Clarence Chadwick, a good old-time Christian Scientist, once wrote: "We can truly welcome the failures of all false systems to bring health and harmony to earth, for these very failures can teach but one lesson, and that is, that the only real help comes from God."

Today we are bombarded with complaints of the failure of our financial system, our healthcare system, our educational systems, etc. Unfortunately, many of those complaining of these failures are calling for more, not less, government control to "fix" them. If we look closely, however, we will see that each failure is really a failure to obey God's law.

The Bible is full of basic divine principles which govern every aspect of our lives, and, if followed, these laws result in success, not failure. "Owe no man anything, but to love one another," is one of the most powerful principles to follow. If the Golden Rule were followed by everyone, there would be far more cooperation and prosperity and far less need for government regulations.

... each failure is really a failure to obey God's law

During the time of Samuel, the ancient Israelites for many years did not have a king. Instead, they were acutely aware of the protective power of God and sought His help regularly. When in need of guidance, they turned to Samuel, the recognized prophet of God. During this time, Israel prospered and enjoyed peace with its neighbors. When the elders later approached Samuel and asked him to set a king before them, Samuel was heart-broken. He recognized this as a big step in the wrong direction; yet, God assured him that they had not abandoned him, but

“The World Has Need of You”

had abandoned God. Once Saul was selected to rule the Israelites, the next several years were fraught with internal strife and warfare with their neighbors.

The history of the United States of America is a modern-day testament to the power of these divine principles. When the Christian principle of government by God, not by man, serves as the basis of human government, that nation thrives economically and spiritually. As Mary Baker Eddy states in the Christian Science textbook, “One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; constitutes the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the Scripture, ‘Love thy neighbor as thyself;’ annihilates pagan and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes; equalizes the sexes; annuls the curse on man, and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.”

To turn to a politician or a government agency for help with our daily needs is to look in the wrong direction. Each failure of a human, mortal system should serve as a reminder that “the only real help comes from God.” As our hymn 269 says, “God’s promises are kept.”



“Feed My Sheep” —

A Treatment for Government

Lenni Moore

Recently I was rather delighted and thrilled to recognize how four lines from “Feed My Sheep” by Mary Baker Eddy were the perfect treatment for the political miasma that seems to be enveloping the country, especially in this elec-

tion year. I had never before thought about them in the context of politics, but like everything Mrs. Eddy gave us, they rise to meet the need of the occasion.

“Thou wilt bind the stubborn will.” There seems to be a lot of willfulness in Washington — an unyielding stubbornness on either side of the aisle and a desire to promote party agenda. But this line assures us of God’s power and ability to bind up this false sense of willfulness. It was also such a relief to me because putting it in God’s jurisdiction takes any false sense of responsibility, pressure, or fear away from me. All I need to do is recognize and claim God’s ability to do it, and know it is done.

self-righteousness and pride disappear in the presence of God

“Wound the callous breast.” So often it seems like politicians are pretty “soulless” and have very few principles. But here again we have the assurance that God will “wound,” or strike down, unloving, unrighteous, or unprincipled behavior.

It can’t persist.

“Make self-righteousness be still.” This was my favorite because, boy, it does seem like each side is so puffed up with self-righteousness and pride. But, again, this disappears in the presence of God, and God will still or quiet that false sense. God is the “still, small voice” of Truth, and that has the power to cut through all the nonsense.

“Break earth’s stupid rest.” No mesmerism is too big or too strong for God to break through and wake people up. And that includes the political mesmerism, the apathy, the blind, unthinking adherence to a human political agenda or a particular political “side.”

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All That Is, Is Real

Tony Moore

Since God is the cause and creator, creation must be spiritual. So why do I see matter, limits, lack, poverty, a bad economy, political crisis, etc.?

This question paralyzed me. Nowhere in my study, class instruction, or class associations had this been answered. It wasn't until I came to Plainfield that a very patient practitioner guided me into the light of Truth.

It took about 12 months for "the veil" to be lifted so I could read Science and Health and the Bible with spiritual sense. Wow! I found that the answer to my question has always been there; it was just hidden from me. I realized that it is only mortal mind which sees that which is unlike God. Mary Baker Eddy writes, "Inasmuch as God is good and the fount of all being, He does not produce moral or physical deformity; therefore such deformity is not real, but is illusion, the mirage of error. Divine Science reveals these grand facts." (S&H) The good and spiritual, the eternal creation, is present right now, staring me in the face!

God's creation is now and ever will be perfect. It's only through the dark lens of so-called mortal mind that I seem to see error. Mortal man runs around making laws, creating, planning, forecasting the economy, predicting weather, showcasing political turmoil and so on. I need my spiritual sense to judge rightly and see rightly. Mrs. Eddy also writes, "Mortals are egotists. They believe themselves to be independent workers, personal authors, and even privileged originators of something which Deity would not or could not create." (S&H)

Those problems "out there" are actually in my own thinking. They are opportunities for me to demonstrate

Science and witness divine Principle and Mind governing. God gave man dominion. This is one way to claim that dominion and think rightly. So those problems “out there” — those visions — are not reality, but deflections of mortal mind.

I am so grateful for the support of the practitioner, the clear and accurate Bible Lessons, etc., that adhere to this truth. Armed with this powerful truth, I can be an effective watcher and pray for the world. Gilbert Carpenter once said “gain truth and distribute it to the world.” Thanks to Plainfield, I can now begin this wonderful work!



Highest Good

Sharon Welsh

Recently the “quote of the day” on our website was the statement, “God has nothing in store for us but the highest good. Why not expect it?” by Elizabeth S. Murray. Expecting only good was one of the first things I learned when I came to Plainfield Church.

Mary Baker Eddy says, “To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings.” (S&H) Growing up in another religion, I had never heard anything like that. If I was sick, hurt, or having a problem, it was because I had offended God and that was my punishment. I also expected these problems, because I was a sinful mortal, and this was the way of life.

Coming to independent Christian Science here in Plainfield Church changed all my misconceptions. It’s been said that we receive what we believe. Expecting good

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opens the way for it to come, whereas expecting evil, invites *it* in.

Expecting only good changed my life in every way. I received a better job, home, car, and found the best friends, to name just a few. Also, learning to expect good became my way of life. Knowing that this Truth is available for all mankind lifts the heart. Christian Science is not a selfish religion. The good is for everyone, and we need to know it, love it, and prove it.



No Regrets

Carl Miller

People sometimes think about the past with a sense of regret, thinking they “would have,” “could have,” or “should have” done something differently. The fact of the matter is, “it is what is,” and we have to recognize that regrets are not our thinking and do not have to belong to us. We have to go to God and drop the past. If there’s something we’ve done wrong, we need to apologize to God and the other person; but we must move on.

If we’re doing our very best to listen to God and obey His commandments, there can be no regrets. People make mistakes; but when we learn the lesson, and use each experience as a steppingstone, vowing never to make the same mistake again, we grow in our understanding of Truth.

The Bible says, “God requireth that which is past.” (Eccl.) Ruminating on past experiences keeps the error around and makes it seem more real. We need to give up the past, and move forward with God.

When I first came to Plainfield Church many years ago, in one of the first classes I attended, the teacher said, "Have you given your wrong thinking up to God?" As he explained during this class, wrong thinking is anything that's not from God. That would include any wrong thoughts about yourself or any other child of God.

It is very important to go to God for everything, understanding that everything we do, we do with God and for God; and seeing that His will only is being done.



Persistence

Carol Conroy

In Luke, Jesus tells the parable of a man who receives an unexpected visitor, and he has no bread to offer him. He goes to a neighbor to ask for bread, but it's late at night, and the neighbor is already tucked warmly in bed with his children, and doesn't want to disturb the family by getting up to help him. But he continues to ask, and "Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."

The man received what he asked for because he was persistent. How often do we ask God for something, and if it doesn't come quickly, we rationalize — I guess it's just not the right time, or I'm not ready, or God isn't ready, — and we give up. Maybe we need to be more persistent! It's been said that anything worth having, is worth working for.

Soon after I came to Plainfield, while working with a practitioner, I remember being told, "It took you a long time to get into this situation, so it might take a while to get

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out of it — just don't give up!" I remember saying later that I felt like an onion being peeled, that layer after layer of error was being peeled away. And as I persisted, one by one, bad habits of thought and bad experiences fell away.

The practitioner also told me that embarking on the study of Christian Science is like sailing a ship up a fresh-water river, where the barnacles that cling to the ship's bottom in the ocean, fall off in the fresh waters. But if the ship were to leave the fresh waters too soon, the barnacles would remain.

In healing, it's often necessary to learn some lesson, or to take a step further in progress to become more useful to God. God propels us onward, and prepares us for His service — but if we don't persist, we have to retrace our steps and learn the lesson over.

It's been said that the darkest hour precedes the dawn. Error often puts up its biggest fight just as it's ready to break; so keep working and praying!

Jesus' words regarding his parable conclude with, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Luke) That's God's promise!

There is no need to hesitate.
Choose to follow God — don't wait.
You'll never be led astray or deceived.
With God, only good you'll receive.

Lillian Linnell

Seeker Versus Striver

Andrew Kidd

“I have grown up in Christian Science and often find such clarity when I study, but cannot seem to apply it, as I am constantly bombarded with negative experiences.” This is a common chorus among “life-long Christian Scientists.” We do not have to look far for an explanation of this condition in our textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*:

“Students of Christian Science, who start with its letter and think to succeed without the spirit, will either make shipwreck of their faith or be turned sadly awry. They must not only seek, but strive, to enter the narrow path of Life, for ‘wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.’ Man walks in the direction towards which he looks, and where his treasure is, there will his heart be also. If our hopes and affections are spiritual, they come from above, not from beneath, and they bear as of old the fruits of the Spirit.” (S&H p. 451)

What is this spirit that is too often lacking? Seeking truth and understanding is not adequate. Striving is absolutely required — striving to overcome the flesh in its warfare with the spirit! The modern-day systems of metaphysics, like Unity, New Age, etc., are uncomfortable with this point. To these systems, the Bible with its allusions to the war of the spirit and the flesh, is primitive and tiresome, and the writings of Mrs. Eddy obsess about animal magnetism!! Why strive when it is so much easier simply to seek? Sadly, the Christian Science “culture” (not Mrs. Eddy’s legacy), has found affinity with this “wide gate and broad way,” and this explains why it is void of transformative, healing power.

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How then does one strive? In the passage under consideration, it stipulates that our hopes and affections must be spiritual — our desire to know God and to obey Him must overtake our desire for peace and harmony. Then, from Mrs. Eddy's article "Exemplification": "To energize wholesome spiritual warfare, to rebuke vainglory, to offset boastful emptiness, to crown patient toil, and rejoice in the spirit and power of Christian Science, we must ourselves be true. . . . 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. There should be no blot on the escutcheon of our Christliness when we offer our gift upon the altar." (Ret. p. 86)

"Note well the falsity of this mortal self." — The seeker pretends the mortal self is perfect instead of striving to put it off. The striver declares: "Perfect God, perfect man, and that's not it!" and diligently refuses to indulge the mortal self. He welcomes the opportunity to have the light shine on his words and works so that whatever is not of God be uncovered in order to be healed. This is not a comfortable path, but it strengthens moral fiber, and allows the individual to be more watchful, and more consistently attentive to the needs of others. Then his peace and harmony will not be that fragile, other-worldly sense that is incapable of dealing with adversity, but it will be built upon a rock which the winds and waves will not be able to move.



Progress Is God's Law

Mary Beth Singleterry

On pages 232-233 in *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states, "There is neither place nor opportunity in Science for error of any sort. Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power. These proofs consist solely in the destruction of sin, sickness, and death by the power of Spirit, as Jesus destroyed them. This is an element of progress, and progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil."

Some time ago when I was working with a practitioner in Plainfield Church, he asked me to keep a journal of the progress I had been making. It seemed like a simple assignment, but I found it extremely difficult until I found the above quote. It then became clear to me that each day I have opportunities to destroy error in some way — first in my own thought, and then in other ways as God directs. So I began to ask myself, "Do I give error any place in my thought? in my home? in my business? Do I stand speechless before an error and give it opportunity?" Believe me, I found room for much improvement!

To help keep my thought focused and moving forward, I started keeping a journal and would daily record ways in which I stood up to the devil! I would write down notes about things that bothered me and would ask God for His help and guidance. I would also write down all the blessings and healings I had experienced during the day and thank God for them. This became my "Spiritual Notebook" and I keep it to this day! It is truly amazing how much progress you can become aware of — when you take

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the time to look for it and to be grateful for it!

Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health* on page 547, “The true theory of the universe, including man [including me!], is not in material history but in spiritual development.” By keeping a journal of this kind, it becomes a record of spiritual development, and what an important record that is!

Occasionally someone would ask, “How do you have time for a journal?” Well, if you think about it, most people have plenty of time for “face book,” or for surfing the internet, or for making a photo album, etc. Why not make a little time to write down your spiritual progress? It is well worth the effort!

On one of the pages in my journal, I have written this thought-provoking quote from Mrs. Eddy’s article “Fallibility of Human Concepts” — “A little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated, would restore the right action of the mental mechanism, and make manifest the movement of body and soul in accord with God.” Mrs. Eddy’s wise counsel stands as a constant reminder of what true progress is! Loving goals that fill our days with genuine and worthwhile achievement!

Our Journey

Step by step we walk life’s road;
From sense to soul, the way, God shows.
Walk, don’t run, trust in Him as you learn,
A new life to live; peace and joy you have earned.

Lillian Linnell

Testimonies of Healing

The following testimonies are offered with great love to those seeking encouragement and inspiration.

Thank you, God, for a new, better job that uses my experience and technical knowledge, a job that covers my family's expenses. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven." I certainly knew that I could not succeed in my search for a job without God.

After getting laid off from a job after 27 years, I was sure, maybe even cocky, that I would quickly get another one. I found that I would not. I now understand that I had some important lessons to learn first. After searching for a job for a while, I felt like Job, who lost most everything. I kept working with a healing, uplifting, honest, and patient practitioner in Plainfield Church. Each financial problem was overcome with the practitioner's help. I could no longer trust in savings or a paycheck. I had to pray, sing, and trust in God, Truth. After I could not see how I could cover another month's bills, God provided a truly good and perfect job.

Thank God for Christian Science and the prayerful help of the practitioner.

C. T.

New Jersey

When our daughter was very young, she was a very active child, never afraid of anything, and into so many things all the time that it was a concern to me. It was my practice to get up early in the morning before anyone else and study the Bible Lesson. One particular morning I spent extra time praying and asking God to show me His child.

Later that morning a friend was visiting with her sons, who were playing outside with our son and daughter. All of a sudden, our daughter came screaming and crying up the

Testimonies

stairs. I went out immediately. Her face was red and swollen and I found that she had accidentally been hit on the side of her face with a baseball bat. At other times I would have been alarmed, but this time I was completely calm and asked her if matter could touch Spirit. She answered no. Then I said, "Then you couldn't be hurt by a baseball bat could you?" She said no. I took her inside, and asked her if she wanted to listen to error, or if she wanted to listen to God. She said God. I then invited her to help me bake some cookies, which she was delighted to do. She was completely healed.

*D. W.
Virginia*

I had a quick healing last week. I had thrown my back out when caring for my husband. I was in severe pain and could not get out of bed or walk during the night. In the morning, I called a practitioner from this church for help.

The practitioner gave me some readings from *Science and Health*, pages 384 to 393, part of which states that one cannot suffer from doing good deeds, and she said she would pray for me. She also gave me the quote from *Science and Health*, "Whatever it is your duty to do, you can do without harm to yourself."

I immediately began to feel better. My son, having heard about my plight, stopped over to my house about an hour later and was shocked to see that I was up and about, walking and doing my normal activities — completely healed!

I want to express my gratitude for this healing and for this church.

*B. M.
Iowa*

I was diagnosed with hypertension, which is extremely high blood pressure, and was taking medication for it. I

CornerStone

took it for some time and never thought about it. It became a habit.

One day the thought came loud and clear that I should trust God. I realized God was telling me it was time to stop taking the medication. I spoke to a practitioner in the Plainfield Church and was told to do whatever God was telling me. There wasn't any condemnation that I had been taking pills, or for having gone to a doctor. I was just assured, with much love, that God was in control, God regulates all action of the body, and I was His perfect idea. I stopped taking the pills, and I feel better than I did before.

Thank God for Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, and practitioners in the Plainfield Church.

S. W.

New Jersey

Since getting much practitioner help in Plainfield, many changes have taken place in my life. The blessings and goodness can almost seem too numerous to mention. One thing I am particularly grateful for is a sense of extreme exhaustion and laziness, often sleeping away my days. But the practitioner help has lifted me out of this, and now I am much more active and am able to think more clearly and intelligently in doing whatever I need to do.

I am so grateful for this profound change, which was desperately needed. I am also grateful that the work of Plainfield Church is reaching out to the world.

T. D.

Iowa

I was painting the trim on my house recently, and, as I was moving a very heavy ladder, it came crashing down and landed on my foot — right on my instep. The pain was excruciating, and the foot swelled immediately. The picture was pretty nasty.

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As I prayed for myself, one thing that came to my thought was a statement from that week's Lesson: "I will put My law in their inward parts." I prayed, knowing that God's law is in the "inward parts" of that foot, protecting, rejuvenating, and healing. The pain stopped quickly. I know the foot was broken, because when I tried to walk, I could feel something moving in it.

I called a Plainfield practitioner for help. The practitioner told me, "It never happened in divine Mind," and she said that it was no more true than a bad dream. Wow! If it never happened, there's nothing that has to be rejuvenated or repaired! I knew that was the answer, and I rejoiced in that fact, knowing that an idea of God can never be hurt. How can you hurt an idea?

She also gave me this statement from Science and Health on page 397 to work with: "When an accident happens, you think or exclaim, 'I am hurt!' Your thought is more powerful than your words, more powerful than the accident itself, to make the injury real.

"Now reverse the process. Declare you are not hurt and understand the reason why, and you will then find the ensuing good effects to be in exact proportion to your disbelief in physics, and your fidelity to metaphysics, confidence in God as All, which the Scriptures declare Him to be." The practitioner prayed for me, and within two days, the swelling was completely gone, and the foot was normal and perfect in every way.

I am extremely grateful to God and the practitioner for this wonderful, quick healing. I was able to do everything I normally did, didn't miss any time from work, and very few people even noticed anything was different. Thank God for Christian Science!

C. C.
New Jersey



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Broadcast the Truth
“Freely ye have received, freely give”*