

The
CORNERSTONE
of
Independent
Christian Science

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

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September 2013
Number 156

Come Join Us

Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

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Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

905 Prospect Avenue

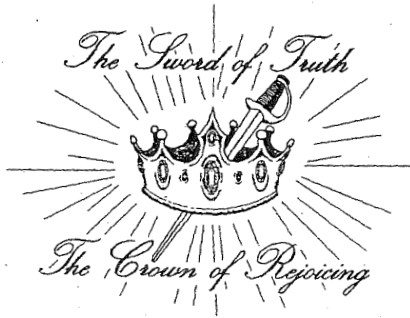
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Independent Christian Science

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.

Science, understood, translates matter into Mind, rejects all other theories of causation, restores the spiritual and original meaning of the Scriptures, and explains the teachings and life of our Lord. It is religion's "new tongue," with "signs following," spoken of by St. Mark. It gives God's infinite meaning to mankind, healing the sick, casting out evil, and raising the spiritually dead. Christianity is Christlike only as it reiterates the word, repeats the works, and manifests the spirit of Christ.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellaneous Writings*



From "No and Yes"

Mary Baker Eddy

The Science that Jesus demonstrated, whose views of Truth Confucius and Plato but dimly discerned, Science and Health interprets. It was not a search after wisdom; it was wisdom, and it grasped in spiritual law the universe, — all time, space, immortality, thought, extension. This Science demonstrated the Principle of all phenomena, identity, individuality, law; and showed man as reflecting God and the divine capacity. Human philosophy would dethrone perfection, and substitute matter and evil for divine means and ends.

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Human philosophy has an undeveloped God, who unfolds Himself through material modes, wherein the human and divine mingle in the same realm and consciousness. This is rank infidelity; because by it we lose God's ways and perpetuate the supposed power and reality of evil *ad infinitum*. Christian Science rends this veil in the pantheon of many gods, and reproduces the teachings of Jesus, whose philosophy is incontestable, bears the strain of time, and brings in the glories of eternity; "for other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

We tend too much towards the physical and this tendency produces discord. Jesus said, "Take no thought for your body." Do not let error tell you that you are not a good loyal Christian Scientist because you are not rich. The heavenward path is only won by struggling, but you will win if you faint not.

Mary Baker Eddy
Divinity Course and General Collectanea



From "Retrospection and Introspection"

Mary Baker Eddy

Science saith to fear, "You are the cause of all sickness; but you are a self-constituted falsity, — you are darkness, noth-

Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

ingness. You are without ‘hope, and without God in the world.’ You do not exist, and have no right to exist, for ‘perfect Love casteth out fear.’”

God is everywhere. “There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard;” and this voice is Truth that destroys error and Love that casts out fear.

Christian Science reveals the fact that, if suffering exists, it is in the mortal mind only, for matter has no sensation and cannot suffer.

If you rule out every sense of disease and suffering from mortal mind, it cannot be found in the body.

Posterity will have the right to demand that Christian Science be stated and demonstrated in its godliness and grandeur, — that however little be taught or learned, that little shall be right. Let there be milk for babes, but let not the milk be adulterated. Unless this method be pursued, the Science of Christian healing will again be lost, and human suffering will increase.



Error wants to be let alone, but we are not going to let it alone. Rather will we continue our effort at right thinking until the absurd and illegitimate argument that man is flesh and bones — organized matter — is met and the ideas of God manifested.

Mary Baker Eddy
Divinity Course and General Collectanea

Recorded Healings by Mary Baker Eddy

The following is from a collection of healings achieved by Mrs. Eddy, included in the booklet, "The Overwhelming Evidence Concerning Spiritual Healings Through Mary Baker Eddy," compiled by Ralph Spencer. This booklet is available from Plainfield Church.

Edward Kimball, a Christian Science lecturer and teacher, had suffered many years with a condition that made him cross and irritable, and from which he gained only temporary relief through Christian Science. Finally it became so aggravated, he wired Mrs. Eddy that he wanted to see her, and she wired back telling him to come.

As he sat in the parlor waiting for her, he began to have misgivings, because he realized that under this claim, he was so touchy that he was hardly fit to talk to anyone, even to his own family. He began to wonder how he was going to appear even civil before her.

When he heard her step on the stair, he wanted to run out of the house. She entered the room, paused on the threshold, and holding out both her hands, she advanced to him and said, "Doesn't it make one cross to be sick?" Then without a word from him, she changed the subject and began to talk about other things. She never referred to his reason for coming to Boston all the while he was there. His summary of this interview was, "I had never been so loved in all my life."



Recorded Healings

Victory Is Your Normal Right

Edward A. Kimball

From Teaching & Addresses

You are bound to win. Be not afraid. It makes no difference what the trouble is, keep at the winning. You are bound to win.

It may not be speedy; you may not get rid of the ghost of trouble at once. I did not; the belief with me was that my inherited temperament interfered. Some people are healed quickly; some are not. I was of the latter class. If I had been healed quickly, I would probably have given up Science, or, at any rate, would not have gained in the measure that I have the understanding of Christian Science.

I have known people to be discouraged even unto death. Be not afraid. When evil besets you, turn at once. Resist the fear. Do not give up; do not yield. You are entitled to win, for all that means power and law are on your side.

Assurance

The working of Truth will never stop,
As the sun will always rise.
The operation of both is solid as a rock,
Since God's the only power, the all-wise.

Lillian Linnell

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

Mind is orderly in its action, and it is ours to reflect its orderliness in all that we say and do.

Charlotte Paulsen

God does not give, He is; and man is His showing forth.

Herbert W. Eustace



Freedom from Turmoil

Luanne Tucker

Those of us who live in constant turmoil every day are like hoarders. It's like the people you see on TV, or friends you may know who live in homes filled with “things” — things that keep us buried in the past.

For some, they see the turmoil every day and cannot break free because they have become comforted by their discordant surroundings. For others, they stumble around in the dark, bruised and battered and mad at everyone else for the trouble they are in. This was me.

At first I did not know why I had been tripping over things and running into walls all my life; then I was given the book *Science and Health* to read. I did not understand its teaching at all and kept demanding that if there was this God full of love and mercy, why was I suffering so? Then, when I knew I was in real trouble, through the grace of God and a Plainfield Church practitioner, I was pulled up out of the depths and into the light of day.

**I was the one
who needed
to show God
what kind of
disciple I was!**

“Feed My Sheep”

An absolute faith in, and understanding of, the works and qualities of God, and the study and understanding of Christian Science, is the glorious sunlight that will bring us peace and salvation.

I was asking God to show me what kind of God He was, but I was refusing to listen to the answer. I was the one who needed to show God what kind of disciple I was! God depends on me to show what kind of God He is.

I learned that I am God’s eternal quality in *action*, not in waiting or idleness or expecting God to do the work. God’s work is done.

Praise God for all His glorious work, and Mrs. Eddy for showing us the way to see it.



Routine of Expectation

Joan H. Rome

Someone has very beautifully said of Mary Baker Eddy, “She never allowed her day to dawn darkened with the clouds of yesterday.”

Mrs. Eddy has written, “the textbook of Christian Science is transforming the universe.” (Mis.) One day cannot be the same old routine as the day before, if Truth is transforming the universe. Neither is a human being the same one day as he was the day before, or even the hour before, because Truth has been working through his consciousness. A thought of Truth can never fail, so each moment is new and different and more spiritual and joyous.

A mortal seems to go monotonously through the day

in the same order of demands on his time as he did yesterday. He walks in the shadows of weariness, and finally the time comes when he says of the days, "I have no pleasure in them," for the days of man "are as grass." This concept of life is not the reality of being, but is the illusion of life in matter; it is the belief in routine of expectation, and routine of submission to matter that seems to be a law.

Truth being all-powerful, every thought of Truth which one entertains in consciousness must be positive. The word of Truth has power, not because of the one who thinks it, but because it emanates from God. Every moment of time is different from the preceding one because Truth has been thought, no matter what the material senses may report. Every thought of Truth acting on our affairs, our environment, our living, does its perfect work.

The word of Truth has power, not because of the one who thinks it, but because it emanates from God.

Christian Science teaches that God is Spirit, and that man, as His likeness, is every moment through eternity advancing in the unfolding conception of infinite Mind; is every moment stepping into new, surprising joy. There can be no mere repetition of any action of infinity, and therefore many things must be in the nature of a surprise to human sense,

always an added interest, a newness of existence, eternally brightening. Thus does Christian Science save us from the delusions of a treadmill existence; and just in the measure of our dependence on Truth, we shall find the prison doors opening and the oppressed set free.

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.

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
January 5, 1899*

Christian Science Healing

Is it not the destiny of stars to shine and fig trees to bear fruit? Said the first Christian Scientist, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Of the fruitless tree the Master said, "Cut it down." For Christians not to shine, not to heal, is to be without "good works" and therefore to fail to glorify their heavenly Father. Said Christ Jesus of every believer, "The works that I do shall he do also." Who will deny that healing was among the works of Jesus? Who can deny, then, that healing is the fruit which every believer should bring forth? Is it not easy to see, then, that the fate of a church without healing is the fate of the fig tree without figs? Is it not plain that in order to glorify the Father, there must be Light enough to make the works manifest? Is it not clear that for the Church of Christ to flourish, it must have Life enough to bring forth fruit? For "By their *fruits* ye shall know them."

Once when about his business there sought him out one who "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse." What would be thought today of those bunglers who for twelve years had been experimenting on

the invalid? For twelve years the guessers guessed while the sufferer suffered. Touched by the Christ-Truth she was “healed of her plague.” In presence of the Christ-Truth the error vanished.



*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
January 12, 1899*

The Doom of Physiology **Waldo Pondray Warren**

Much there is that is called wisdom, which is but the opinions of man; much that is called good which bears evil fruit; much that seems to be Truth, yet savors of unholy things.

Physiology is a wolf in sheep's clothing — a “way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” It inculcates a theory from which grow practices that mock manhood, traduce innocence, sneer at the might of intelligence, and enthrone relentless tyrants of men.

Where volumes could be written, a paragraph must often suffice; yet if that paragraph be truth, it will some day overthrow countless volumes which speak not the truth.

Physiology, as it has been taught for centuries, treats of man merely as a mass of matter, ignoring his mental and spiritual manhood, and by virtue of its silence declares these sublime realities to be false.

Who has learned of physiology that Man is a little lower than the angels? of his relationship to his Maker? of his latent possibilities? of his character? of his genius? of his real life — the sustaining principle of his being? Can a system which claims to tell us of Man, yet knows nothing of his higher nature, be trusted to teach us concerning any part of him? And if it ignores the highest and best, does it tell us truly of Man?

Some day those who now would teach us will learn that man is more than matter; and when they learn this grandest of truths, physiology will become obsolete, physicians will be needless, surgeons will find better employment, hospitals will no longer be necessary, — and methinks millions and millions of unmade graves will wait in vain for immortal man.



Reality

“What is it that’s real?” you say to yourself.
“Can it be seen, or can it be felt?”
Material senses are baseless and false;
Spiritual sense is real,
with God as its source.

Lillian Linnell

Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B. These watching points were written for Mr. Carpenter's students, "to broaden their demonstration of Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy set the example in her home."

Watching Point No. 234 Gilbert C. Carpenter

Mrs. Eddy discerned the need of advanced students applying the rule of reversal, which is a law of Truth applied to human experience, namely, that we are stronger for every experience, and our flame burns more brightly as error tries to blow it out. When we meet the attacks of error in this way, so that we become stronger under affliction, error will cease this mode of attack and attempt a different one, namely, human harmony.

The prodigal son came back stronger and better for his contact and conflict with error in Egypt; while the elder brother disintegrated under the human harmony he experienced in his father's house. If we establish the habit of meeting error by reversing its claims and knowing that we are better for it, we shall be prepared to continue this warfare when the more subtle phase of human sense confronts us, namely, human harmony, or a sense of God's absence that carries no warning of the danger. Human harmony represents bondage to the belief in harmonious matter, which carries less warning than the belief in discordant matter.



“Comfort Ye My People”

When you change your thinking, you change your experience.

Duncan Sinclair

Blind faith may stumble, and need to be uplifted again and again; but when faith is insight, the heart glorifies God as the source of good.

William P. McKenzie

Rise to a sense of the omnipotence of God. Know that God is All. It is not sufficient to *say it*. You must realize it. Destroy fear with Love. Remember God’s law is the only law.

Mary Baker Eddy

Divinity Course and General Collectanea



A Good Courage

Irving C. Tomlinson

Perhaps there is no verse more helpful than Joshua 1:9: “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Joshua was about to lead the children of Israel into the promised land. There were enemies to vanquish, obstacles to overcome, and fears to destroy, but he knew that a steadfast remembrance that divine Love was ever about him, would enable him to “fear not, nor be dismayed.”

What was true of Joshua and the children of Israel is

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strikingly true today. The promised land we are to win is the kingdom of heaven within individual consciousness. Affirming that “with God all things are possible,” we cross the Jordan of false doubts and fears. Having much for which to be grateful, and perpetually giving thanks, obstacles fade away and every problem spells victory.

Victory is with him before he starts out, for God is with him.

Everyone who studies Science and Health is a pioneer. God is ever speaking to such a one, even as He did to Joshua, and to go forward is the one thing needful. If the battle seems prolonged, it is well to remember that it is under the strain of some long-continued trial that the real test and growth comes.

Victory is with him before he starts out, for God is with him. With Truth alone in his thought, he marches fearlessly onward, for he knows the truth of the assurance given to Joshua: “The Lord, He it is that doth go before thee; He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee.” God’s promises are sure.



Supply

Benjamin P. Lewis

A problem all mankind seems to face at one time or another is that of supply. But this presents only an opportunity to make what seems to be a problem into a stepping-stone to a truer sense of substance.

Christian Science teaches that all reality is spiritual, and that matter is but a dream. Surely we are not looking to increase a dream, so our real needs must be spiritual.

“Comfort Ye My People”

Mary Baker Eddy has written, “Christian Science presents unfoldment, not accretion.” (S&H) Unfoldment is revelation, and Webster defines accretion as addition. Divine Love has already furnished all. What we need to do is to realize this fact, and to open our eyes to the truth that man’s requirements are already met.

You say, but this must be demonstrated. Yes; and where is the demonstration to be made? In our own consciousness, of course. First we must empty consciousness of fear, doubt, hate, envy, jealousy, criticism, greed; otherwise, there will be no place for true thoughts from God.

False sense may try to promote fear by thought of the future, or of past mistakes, or lost opportunities. These errors are all based on the false sense of time. We are in eternity now, and there is no time but now. God is good, and infinite. There can be no divided infinity, part good and part evil; all is good. Then what is there to fear?

Let us look away from material sense testimony and trustingly, as a little child, confidently look up to God. Then we shall find His love all around us, guiding, protecting, and caring for us. Thinking truly will result in living truly. Think truly today; be joyful today; count the blessings we have today; be kind today; and surely this will open our consciousness to perceive what our loving Father has given us.

Mrs. Eddy writes, “God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies. Never ask for tomorrow: it is enough that divine Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment.” (Mis.)

Good is infinite, and man exists at the standpoint of opportunity and receptivity, of blessings infinite, now.

Announcements

The Greatest Thing in the World

We have published a newly typeset paperback version of the much-loved book, *THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD*, by Henry Drummond, the Scottish evangelist. This lecture was given at a mission station in Central Africa, to missionaries preparing to bring the word of God to Africa in 1883. Based on the Bible's "love chapter," I Cor. 13, the lecture illustrates the spiritual timelessness of the message of love. This version is in a larger, more readable format. The price is \$5.00 per copy.

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.

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.

Full-Text Version of Plainfield Lessons

The Plainfield Church produces our independent Lesson Sermons in full-text booklet form. Each 8½ x 11 inch 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 U.S.A.; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

Announcements

Church Services Available by Phone

Our Sunday and Wednesday church services can 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 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 via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

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 phone number, code, and instructions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Live Services on the Internet

Plainfield 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!

Letters from Readers

Thank you so much for membership in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. I am filled with joy. It means a lot to me to be a part of something that is so very important.

Texas

Gratitude to Therese of Argentina for recording the Spanish Lesson. Listening to this is a wonderful way to help my Spanish comprehension.

Virginia

I am really grateful, really it is enriching, this work for me. It is the most gratifying thing that I can do. My sole purpose is to honor this wonderful message that we have received from Mrs. Eddy, and every day thank God for having it.

Argentina

I would like to express my gratitude for all the workers who had the spiritual awareness and strength to fight the Boston "Fahrenheit 451" type of conduct.

One day while reading "Christian Science, Its Clear, Correct Teaching and Complete Writings" by Herbert W. Eustace, it reminded me of the time my mother gave me a copy of "Teaching and Addresses," by Edward A. Kimball. As I read it, Christian Science opened up for me. Here was what I thought Mrs. Eddy meant and not what I had been finding in the Boston periodicals.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all those who courageously stood up to Boston, which tried to bury these wonderful books.

Wisconsin

I am most grateful to God, to Christian Science, and especially the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Inde-

Letters

pendent. It is for this association that I am most grateful.

Recently I listed four apartments in California for sale with a realtor, to complete my move to Arizona. All processed reasonably well, and finally an offer to buy came in. The latter part of last week, I received a message that the escrow had closed and that a wire transfer of funds had arrived at my bank. As a reminder that "God is in charge," I would like the enclosed check to become a part of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, Endowment Fund.

When I think about this issue I must say, "Thank you, Shepherd."

Arizona

I am a realtor [*the realtor mentioned in the above letter*] who has worked with one of your members for over a year now. He has kindly shared the CornerStone magazine and other Plainfield literature with me throughout this time. Recently he purchased a home through me, and I would normally buy a housewarming gift; but he requested I make a donation to the church in lieu of any gift for him. I am pleased to do so. Please find my check enclosed.

Arizona

I really loved the new hymn we sang on Wednesday night. The tune was familiar, but I thought the new words we sang to it were wonderful!

New Jersey

I loved the second hymn we sang last night at the Wednesday service selected by Gerald. It reminded me of my old church I attended when I was a child and we sang, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." I love the fact we are free to do this sort of thing.

Oregon

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I downloaded the book “Dominion Within.” Thank you so much. It is as if a blindfold has been torn away from my eyes. I see where I have failed, where the devil sucked me back in. God’s awareness is All, so mortal mind needs to yield fully, and not partly, or now and then.

Costa Rica

I want to express my gratitude for the weekly Lessons from Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. Each Lesson is filled with strong, spiritual statements from the Bible and Science and Health and are so powerful and helpful in turning thought back to the allness of God.

Thank you for these tremendous Lessons that help get my thought back on the right path.

Mississippi

I would like you all to know how very much I enjoy everything on your church website. The Roundtable discussions are my favorite at the moment.

As I listen to a testimony or service or read something, I can feel the presence of Spirit with you and me across the world. It is awesome!

I am looking forward to applying for church membership.

England

I’d like to thank whoever it was who took those beautiful pictures at the top of the Website home page. They are very inspiring.

Florida

Enclosed is a contribution, sent with much gratitude for being able to be associated with this internet church. Because the church is always as close as a computer, phone, or conference call, there is never a lack of participation

Letters

and inspiration. The camaraderie enjoyed in the Bible study sessions and Roundtable is much appreciated.

Virginia

Thank you for the wonderful instructional testimony on the home page, pointing out the need to rejoice in another's good and seeing Love's control over all. Very helpful.

Iowa

Christian Science is the gift which makes us aware of infinite opportunity for growth. With each challenge, each struggle, so-called problem, whether it's physical, emotional, moral, big or small, the answer is found in Science. I'm grateful to continue learning invaluable lessons that will enable me to bless this world as directed.

Thank you Plainfield Church for all you do.

Georgia

I am so blessed to be able to send a little check each month. God has blessed us with a wonderful church family, and I am learning every day, striving as we say, to listen and do whatever is right.

Michigan

Thank you so much for the lovely letter informing me of the approval of my membership application in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. I am deeply happy to be a member of this wonderful, loving church.

Maryland

Enclosed is a donation for your wonderful church!

I continue to enjoy the Wednesday night services on the phone. It is the highlight of my week.

I love the CornerStone magazine and listen to your CD of songs from Sunday services each night before I go to sleep. They are so soothing!

Alabama

CornerStone

Thank you for being the standard bearers of truly independent Christian Science. The Plainfield Church has become a beacon of light to all mankind.

I am very grateful for the Saturday morning Bible Study classes, as well as the Sunday morning Roundtable. The spiritual insight gained is amazing. I've attended a more traditional Bible study in the past, and it was more about a person's or a church's personal agenda than real spiritual insight. I think they substitute modern day English language Bibles for spiritually insightful, timeless lessons gleaned from the King James Version of the Bible, not to mention missing out on the beauty and poetry of the King James Version.

California

Thank you for the wonderful articles that we receive in the CornerStone magazine. The article, "Highest Good" was so helpful and inspiring — to expect good daily in our lives.

I'm most grateful to be a member of the Plainfield Church and grateful for the dedicated workers at the church.

Illinois

Thank you for making Christian Science so alive and vibrant — the way it is meant to be.

I love that the Plainfield Church is able to write their own Lesson Sermons, have Bible classes and Sunday classes, Lesson forums on the website, watches, and publish CornerStone magazine.

I've found the more I help and contribute, the more I grow in learning and using Christian Science.

California

The Plainfield Bible Study

Following are some points discussed at a recent Plainfield Church Bible Study. At these sessions, Bible citations from that week's Independent Lesson Sermon are discussed. They are held by teleconference on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. If you'd like to join this study group, log on to the church website, plainfieldcs.com, for dial-in information. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Elijah and Elisha

Elijah was around during the reign of King Ahab, when Israel found itself in a terrible state because of Solomon's unfaithfulness to God — the kingdom had been divided and there was a great disrespect for God. One man's failing led to a dramatic downfall . . . but one man's faithfulness led to terrific spiritual growth.

Elijah was one of the greatest prophets, and was called the prophet of fire. He had no tolerance for wrong. He had the courage to tell people the truth and to denounce things that were wrong. You need toughness to break through the adamant of error.

Why Was Elijah so Tough?

Elijah had to be very fierce, because everyone was fast asleep. When he went to see King Ahab, Ahab greeted him by saying, "So you're the one who's stirring up trouble in Israel." Elijah said to Ahab, "No, you are the one who's ignoring the commandments!" Ahab tried to turn it back on Elijah — evil always tries to put blame on the one who stands for right.

Elijah's life was a mission. He cared about nothing except serving God. He was there to straighten out the nation of Israel because they were in violation of God's law. King Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that went before him. The peo-

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ple were living in a period of tyranny. The worshipping of the true God was actually outlawed, and it was replaced with Baal worship. Ahab's wife Jezebel was a Phoenician, a foreigner, who came in and ruled with gross self-will. Then Elijah shows up to confront Ahab.

Modern-Day Elijah

What's interesting about this, for those of you who haven't experienced Mrs. Evans, she was very loving; but to those who were close to her, she was also very fierce. Just like the people in Elijah's time, most Christian Scientists were fast asleep and needed to be awakened. That was very offensive to a lot of people. But it's clear, when you look at the facts, this was the only church that survived the tyranny of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Evans was definitely an Elijah. Most people ran from it, and maybe even mocked her, but it did take that strength to accomplish what was accomplished. We really have received the mantle.

There might be a little toughness here, but it's nothing like the way Mrs. Evans was. I like to think that we're at a different point, God requires something different now, just as Elisha was very different from Elijah. It's helpful for those who might have wrestled with the toughness they observed from Mrs. Evans to think of Elijah, because there's no doubt he was a tough dude, and Mrs. Evans had to be, too. There are those who only heard the sermons, or the more gentle, loving side, and didn't realize the toughness that was behind it; those perhaps who didn't get the classes or who were not here. Even the tapes of the classes were edited, although some people find that hard to believe. I've heard strong reaction to some of the classes from people who weren't here at the time. Everyone would like to hear them, but you really had to be here to understand it. Otherwise you're a voyeur. Take what you can from what we're giving you now; it's a much healthier approach.

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Those of you who did get the classes, fine; but some have wanted to hear them. Don't be a voyeur. Take now this teaching to heart, and you'll grow tremendously if you do. And take the rebukes, which are for the most part a lot gentler than what we received.

Moral Fortitude

Think of that scene, when Elijah is calling on Ahab to bring all the prophets of Baal together. He's the lone prophet of God. All the children of Israel are there, and he has to wait through a whole day of these prophets calling on Baal to burn the sacrifice. There were 450 prophets of Baal, and another 400 prophets of another god — and then there was Elijah.

Around the time of Elijah, there were 7,000 people who had not bowed before Baal, but they were quiet because they were afraid, so Elijah didn't know that there were other true worshippers of God. Elijah was not hiding his light under a bushel. To stand there before all these people and declare what God was going to do took tremendous courage. He knew his God was real and he wasn't afraid of showing it in front of everybody. I think of people who are afraid to give a testimony when they've had a wonderful healing. And they're afraid for some reason, afraid of malpractice, that it's going to be reversed. If you think all those things, you really haven't had the healing. So don't be afraid. You know your God is real — you get up there and stand up for your God, stand up in front of others, and God will perform a miracle if need be.

Triumph Harms

What happened to Elijah after that? What happened to the 450 false prophets? Elijah commanded the children of Israel to kill them. You can bet there were a lot of people who didn't like that, like Jezebel. Elijah went through a bit

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of a depression after that, he hid in a cave and asked that his life be taken from him. He had accepted that thought, but God didn't allow it. That's when he got the angel message about God not being in the wind, the fire, and so on; and when that was done, there came the still, small voice.

One of the things Mrs. Evans brought out about this was that he got carried away. You can imagine the feeling when the fire came down and destroyed everything. She suggested there was a sort of animal nature that took over. I think it's worth considering, that this was the outcome of getting into the animal, not staying in the spirit. And also a bit of discouragement that the people didn't immediately turn back to God. But that doesn't mean that God left him comfortless. He tripped and fell, but God sustained him and helped him to see what he needed to see and to move on and continue his great work.

We leave error to destroy itself — I'm sure it would have in some other way if he hadn't taken things into his own hands. The Bible says, "vengeance is mine, saith the Lord." We know that God is not a vengeful God, but the error will destroy itself. That's why, when we pray, we don't say that some awful thing is going to happen to some person. That is definitely malpractice. You pray that God destroys error by virtue of the allness of God. It can't exist because, if God is all, there is no place for it. And in knowing that, whatever is not right will destroy itself. Mrs. Eddy says that Truth destroys only that which is untrue. When you personalize at all, you create a hook. So it's profoundly important that we separate the error from the person, and destroy the error — have no mercy — but for heaven's sake, don't mix the two or you will damn yourself. You can tell when you're getting into personality — you're churning and thinking badly about some person. That's when you

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stop yourself, because you're getting off. That happened to me years ago, and I turned to two articles by Mrs. Eddy, "Taking Offense," and "Love Your Enemies," in *Miscellaneous Writings*. That always heals me of that feeling.

A Clean Break from the Past

Now, Elisha was a different type of person than Elijah. Elisha came from a family of means. He was out plowing a field when Elijah cast his mantle on him, and he immediately responded and followed Elijah. He showed Elijah he was serious about following him, and following God. He slaughtered the oxen he was plowing with, and broke up his plow and used that for the fire to cook the oxen to feed his family. There's not a clearer way to show he was making a complete break from the past. That's a pretty profound lesson for us personally as we struggle with how to deal with the past, or when there's a change occurring in us.

Elisha performed more recorded miracles than anyone in the Bible except for Jesus. He had asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, and he got it. When Elijah was to be taken up, Elisha faithfully would not leave him. This was a test. Would he obey the human Elijah's request to stay in that place, or would he obey Spirit? Elisha then asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, of the tremendous love for God that Elijah must have had to do what he did — the spirit of God that he saw in Elijah.

How do we approach God? Should we not be going with our door wide open to let that spirit come in, and knowing there is no limit to it? Understanding and wisdom come when you have the double portion of the spirit, having that love for God that nothing can shake. Understanding comes as a result of obedience.

Would we have the courage to ask for a double portion? We darned well better!

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, "Mind."

"I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." (Eccl.)

For some time I have thought about my legacy, and what I might leave my children. I knew it was pointless to bequeath things; I wanted to give them humor and love and unique perspectives — and yet it was all aimless. Then I came to this church and saw what I was missing: that "great estate" of *wisdom*.

What better legacy can I leave than to impart the knowledge that there is a share of that great estate waiting for them, if they only seek it. "Wisdom is the principal thing." I know it will make their lives wonderful, as long as the wisdom comes from God and they are "not wise in their own eyes."

Forum

Response:

Yes, and on a bigger scale, this should be the basis of all education: “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (I Cor.)

Too much of what our children are given in schools is just “knowledge,” which is rightfully described by Mrs. Eddy as “that which is not divine and is the origin of sin, sickness, and death; the opposite of spiritual Truth and understanding.” (S&H) The education about God and His wisdom that children receive at home and in the Sunday School is the most important education we can give them.

The schools are so aggressive now in taking God out of their curriculum that we have to be all the more aggressive in opposing that attitude. “This atmosphere of mortal mind cannot be destructive to morals and health when it is opposed promptly and persistently by Christian Science.” (S&H) No time to relax!

Response:

Wisdom? What is it? Comes with experience? The poor wise man saved a city. But if he was wise, why was he poor? (In today’s society, that would be the question — although I do not believe it was always thus. Our affluence has hardened our hearts.)

In the book of Job, Elihu was the youngest, but undoubtedly the wisest. Solomon, to whom Ecclesiastes is attributed, speaks eloquently about wisdom, and was famous for it — until his affluence got the better of him at the end.

James says we only need ask Him for wisdom. Surely it comes down to what Mrs. Eddy calls “reflection” — reflection of divine intelligence. “I can of mine own self do nothing. The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.” — *Jesus*

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We need to strive to be nothing without God — a hard concept to pass on to our children as it is contrary to “the world,” but by example, we can leave a profound impression — ultimately, though, it is up to them to find their God. Reflection/wisdom is not something that can be taught, it must be discovered individually.

Response:

This is also why there is no such thing as a second-generation Christian Scientist — Christian Science is not like other denominations that can be passed down from generation to generation. Each one must find it for himself.

Response:

It is of great concern to see so much emphasis on self-reliance, human reasoning, and networking as what helps! Again, how wrong; hence, we must each do our part — trusting God does the rest.

Response:

In the first citation of the Bible, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Isn’t this the essence of it all? Having God direct our path in everything we do. Wisdom is a divine thing — it can’t be humanized. It can’t be acquired. It can only be reflected (experienced). And that gets back to trusting our spiritual sense, because that is the only way we hear God.

And when we trust our spiritual sense, we need to be obedient to the Mind that made us. It can be easy to get distracted by the details of human “knowledge” and totally miss out on the wisdom of what to do with it all. “If materialistic knowledge is power, it is not wisdom. It is but a blind force.” (S&H)

“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.

We must recognize the claims of error and oppose it, or we are in danger of being blinded by it and becoming its victim.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

Think before you act, and your thoughts will govern yours, and other men’s lives, more than your acts can.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Watches, Prayers, Arguments*



The Army of the Lord

William D. McCrackan

The hosts of Spirit advance, irresistible in spiritual power. With the cry of freedom, they trample tyranny, and they uncover false pretenses as they march. They cause the righteous nation to blossom into sweetness and joy; they bring into line with Principle the peoples ready to obey God. Shall not Christian Scientists reinforce this army of the Lord with the equipment of spiritual might, with “the whole armour of God,” “the breast-plate of righteousness,” “the shield of faith,” “the helmet of salvation,” “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”? This word scientifically understood is protection against undersea monsters, against the storms of the air, electricity and hail, against the lurking thought which plants the mine and fires from ambush, against the diabolism which conceived and

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brought forth death-dealing fumes and stupefying clouds laden with the intent of disease. The word of God declared by the Christian Scientist can feed and clothe the army of the Lord and throw about it a sheltering wall which no fleshly temptation can penetrate.

March forth, then, upon thy divine mission, great host of Christian soldiers, animated by lofty purpose, strong and enduring, bound into unity by the power of Principle. The health of this army comes from God; its life is indestructible; it is the embodiment of spiritual good and cannot be penetrated by bullets, bombs, or gases of hatred. The pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night hedges it about with an impenetrable barricade. The forces of evil cannot cope with God's eternal might; they quail before the light of Truth. For as Nebuchadnezzar once vaunted, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" so today from out the dark chamber of intentional evil there comes the same boast, and the same reply is ready from the mouth of God, as it was for Nebuchadnezzar, "The kingdom is departed from thee." In due time there will resound through the palaces of church and state the contrite acknowledgment of God's power, who "doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

Animated by a deep love of peace, Mary Baker Eddy strove for the attainment of "on earth peace, good will toward men." Christian Scientists need to fortify themselves with that noble "Prayer for Country and Church," found in Mrs. Eddy's Message to The Mother Church for 1898 and entitled "Christian Science versus Pantheism." Let the following extracts from that prayer speak to the present need:

“The World Has Need of You”

“Pray for the prosperity of our country, and for her victory under arms; that justice, mercy, and peace continue to characterize her government, and that they shall rule all nations. Pray that the divine presence may still guide and bless our chief magistrate, those associated with his executive trust, and our national judiciary; give to our congress wisdom, and uphold our nation with the right arm of His righteousness. In your peaceful homes remember our brave soldiers, whether in camp or in battle. Oh, may their love of country, and their faithful service thereof, be unto them life-preservers!”



Confidence Versus Discouragement

Edward A. Kimball

What we are seemingly lacking in is intelligence, faith, and confidence. Error will come up and declare that you do not realize the Truth. What are you going to do about it? Are you going to say, “I don’t realize it”? It is easy to wind Christian Scientists up, unless they wake up. What is your Saviour? Is it, “I am discouraged; I cannot realize the Truth”? Is it, “I haven’t enough confidence in my treatment”? What is the one who is being saved going to do? He will declare, “I do realize the Truth. It shall not return void. It is the Word of God, and I cannot be mesmerized to believe I have not confidence in it.” That is what one who is being saved will know.

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Wisdom

Gary Singleterry

Many seek wisdom. Some people search the world for wisdom, as if it could be found in books or in the ancient cultures of mankind. Others consider it an elusive human quality that some people have and some don't. Yet, in Proverbs, we are instructed: "Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore get wisdom." The Bible is rich in instruction regarding wisdom. If wisdom is the ability to make right decisions; to do the right thing at the right time, then the following from Proverbs gives us a clear and concise picture: "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Also in Psalms, we read, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Throughout the Bible, we are told that, if we lack wisdom, to turn to God and He shall provide it. Wisdom is not a human quality. It is not obtained from books, from others, or from experience. It is the "still, small voice of Truth" speaking to us constantly. Wisdom is paying attention to that voice and obeying it. Anything less than the wisdom of God is not wisdom at all, but, rather, is self-deception.

Mary Baker Eddy defines intelligence as a divine quality, "omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. It is the primal and eternal quality of infinite Mind, of the triune Principle, — Life, Truth, and Love, — named God." This divine intelligence, or wisdom, is heard by our spiritual sense, — that sense which is not dependent upon eyes to see or ears to hear. Mrs. Eddy writes, "This sense is assimilated only as we are honest, unselfish, loving, and meek." (S&H) This is the "good soil" in which "the seed must be sown." In order to gain the wisdom of God, we must keep our mental slate clear, free from the deceptive distractions of the world. It requires humility to acknowledge God's

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angel thoughts. And it requires an unselfish love that is willing to sacrifice selfish desires for the good of others in order to obey God's direction.



Peace Amid the Storm Florence Roberts

This was the most peaceful flight I have ever had. It gave me an idea of what it must have been like when Christ Jesus slept undisturbed during the raging sea storm.

Before a recent flight home, the weather forecast predicted thunderstorms. Sure enough, right at the start of the flight, our plane experienced turbulence that was quite severe. I started to pray immediately with the thought that all is Mind and all is in Mind; that all flights, drivers, cars, trains, and buses everywhere were in Mind and secure.

When lightning struck and the plane shook, I held to the Truth. Soon the words of hymn 148 in the Christian Science hymnal came to my thought: "In heavenly Love abiding, no change my heart shall fear." This line from that hymn, "the storm may roar without me," particularly comforted me. I remembered Christ Jesus' perfect peace in the storm on the Sea of Galilee because of his loyalty to Truth. I refused to look at the lightning and held my thought to the Truth. The turbulence did not stop completely, but I was amazed at the peace I felt throughout the length of the flight. Everything was calm when we landed; the rain had stopped, and there was no thunder or lightning.

I was so grateful that I had the opportunity to actually feel what perfect peace there can be if we remain faithful to Truth during any storm. I am so grateful for Christ Jesus' example, Mrs. Eddy's teaching, and for all that I have learned and am learning from Plainfield Church.

A Glorious Morning

Edith Dowell

What a glorious morning, a joyful morning — seeing God’s activity everywhere and feeling His love and presence.

Looking out the kitchen window after a nighttime of rain showers and thunderstorms, the water droplets are glistening on the trees and bushes. On the ground wild flowers have sprung up overnight, and birds are finding an abundance of seeds. Soon the rabbits will come to munch away, and the chipmunks to dig for their goodies. Following them will be the javelinas and the deer to feed on almost everything within their reach.

This reminded me so strongly that God — divine Mind, Life, and Love — is supplying all our needs with His affluence. None of His beautiful creatures found it necessary to store up provisions ahead of time. They simply woke up to a beautiful morning, trusting that their banquet would be waiting for them, and divine Mind guided them to their daily sustenance.

Mrs. Eddy tells us in *Science and Health*, “All nature teaches God’s love to man, but man cannot love God supremely and set his whole affections on spiritual things, while loving the material or trusting in it more than in the spiritual.” Seeing God’s creatures abundantly feasting on their morning meal became a revelation to me. It pointed out so clearly that God is responsible for all well-being — I’m not. And if I feel responsible, this is false pride on my part, for I’m denying God’s love.

A year ago I might not have had this realization, but after coming to the Plainfield Church and working with one of its practitioners, I have been led to dig more deeply into the spiritual reality that underlies all we see around us.

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And most importantly, the necessity for self-examination has been emphasized. Traits, such as personal responsibility — or, more accurately, false responsibility — which once seemed admirable, are now seen in a different light. Personal responsibility, which trusts self more than God, I now see as pride and arrogance. This truly is a humbling revelation. I've also learned that I need to be more grateful to hear God more.

Also, Mrs. Eddy points out in *Science and Health*: “to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good.” Therefore, I need to love and trust God more every day, every moment of the day. He supplies me and mine and all with a life that is beautiful and grand, and overflowing with blessings. But I need to stop putting obstacles in His way, such as personal responsibility, pride, doubt, and fear, and not enough gratitude. In their place should be humility, confidence, love, gratitude, and obedience.

And in this is my joy — loving, obeying, trusting, and working for God to the best that I understand. What a glorious revelation!



Fellowship

LaVerne Fields

The Bible says, “truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (I John) Fellowship is mostly thought of as fellowship with other people, perhaps being likeminded with our friends. But if true fellowship is with God and His Christ, this gives a whole different meaning to fellowship. It forces us higher than that.

Fellowship with God, to me, is a closeness with God. It's being consciously aware of our oneness with Him. And

you can't have fellowship with God until you know who God is and have a sense of feeling His presence. Feeling His presence, you feel His guidance, you feel at one with Him.

When I started working to open my thought to God, I began to consciously be in His presence and listen for His voice. I did this every day, all day long; and after a while, I felt I was always in God's presence. I was consciously aware of my oneness with God and was living, moving, and having my being in Him. Being in His presence protected me from fear and anxiety. Whenever I was confronted with bad news or error of any kind, I was able to immediately look away from the error and, instead, look to God. I was at peace. As the Bible says, "in Thy presence is fullness of joy." (Ps.)

When someone asked Mrs. Eddy if she was lonely, she said, alone, but never lonely, because she felt the connection with God all the time. And we should, too. It's proverbial that some people can be in a crowd and still feel lonely. Once you have that relationship with God, you can never be lonely.



Talking with God

Sharon Welsh

I've learned in this church to talk to God as my best friend. As I've done this, listened and obeyed, I have been blessed.

Recently I had to run an errand for my business; and shortly after I left the office, it began to rain. I talked to God and said I would really appreciate it if it didn't rain, but "Thy will be done." Immediately the rain stopped! The Bible statement, "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me" came to my thought.

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As I pulled into the parking lot of the store I needed to go to, I noticed the lot was very full. I was going to pull into a parking space about six rows away from the store; but before I did, I asked God if that was the right place. The thought came to go to the front row. I did, and there was a parking spot right in front of the store I needed to go to. I rejoiced and remembered that Mrs. Eddy says, “Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.” This was no coincidence — God met all my needs.

I was very grateful to have realized that this blessing was from God, even though it would seem like a minor thing. I’ve learned here that no situation is too small or too insignificant to ask for God’s help, because every detail is important to Him.

I know sometimes good things happen and I don’t acknowledge that they are from God and express gratitude for them. I am working on this, and I know that the more I recognize the good as coming from God, the more will come.



Release from Bondage to the Fear of Death

Jeremy Palmer

I woke yesterday thinking about all the ways I identify myself — as a certain age, as a “dad,” to name just a few — all from a material point of view! I realize now how pervasive these snapshots of identity are, since reading the following post on the Forum page of the Plainfield Church website:

“We see Jesus deliver them who through fear of death

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were all their lifetime subject to bondage.’ (Heb.)

“The world would have you believe that fear of death is a protection! And yet the Bible says fear and love cannot coexist. When you are fearing, you are not loving. Your spiritual sense is shut down, and you are more susceptible to every form of evil! The world is so wrong.

“Jesus came to deliver us from the fear of death — the greatest act of love there could be.”

This morning I read in *Addresses* by Martha Wilcox: “The belief that the body is material is death itself. We can only get out of it by knowing we were never in it.”

As we replace the material view of existence with the spiritual, we find that obedience to God’s will is our activity of love. Getting what I see as my material “self” out of the way, and trying not to humanize or personalize what God wants me to accomplish, is my best path to humility — and out of bondage to the fear of death. I see now that when I strive to fulfill His will, it is most definitely not that I could be wrong, but also accepting that it will not be me that is right! When I do something that comes out well, I now know that it was God’s perfect will at work, and not mine.

It gives me much comfort to feel that each small battle won against the wrong sense of identity brings me another step forward — away from fear and death — toward love and God. Today is not one day closer to death, but one day closer to life!



Send It Back!

Carol Conroy

One day many years ago, I was feeling very discouraged, and I asked a Plainfield practitioner for help. He told me to

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“send it back.” He said that the way to do that is to say, “I don’t feel discouraged, error, *you* feel discouraged! I express the joy of the Lord.” Needless to say, that feeling of discouragement left quickly.

Imagine being able to send back some awful thought or feeling! God has given each one of us dominion over our thoughts and feelings — and the ability to reject anything that’s not from Him. We are not victims or targets of error; we are victorious through God. And when we refuse to accept these false, harmful suggestions, we exercise that dominion that God has given each one of us.

The other day I felt abnormally exhausted, and I remembered what the practitioner had told me years ago. So I vehemently declared, “I don’t feel exhausted, error, *you* feel exhausted. I’m a daughter of the living God, and I express all the strength and energy that God is!” In a very short time, I was feeling my normal self again.

We can use this against any negativity that tries to present itself. If we’re not feeling well, “I don’t feel sick, error, *you* feel sick. I reflect the perfection of God right here in this very spot!” Or if we feel confused, or poor, or sad — you get the picture. Mary Baker Eddy says, “A man’s gaze, fastened fearlessly on a ferocious beast, often causes the beast to retreat in terror.” (S&H) When we stand up to error, it retreats in a big hurry. And what better way to send it packing, than to send it back upon itself!



Participation

Betty Simpson

Several weeks ago I went to a conference. At a pre-conference meeting there was a request made for someone to

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give a brief talk at a breakfast meeting. Before I even thought about it, I had volunteered to do the talk — without any of the normal fear and hesitation about speaking in front of my peers. This was a huge deal for me.

Let me rewind.

As I was getting ready to attend this same conference three years ago, I called a practitioner from the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. He told me that I should go to be a blessing and not just to get something for myself. Well, that gave me a lot to think about. So, when I went to the conference, I began to ask if any help was needed. The next thing I knew, I had volunteered to be a chairperson for my region for the association I belong to.

During the last few years I had also been encouraged to participate in various activities in the Plainfield Church. As I live out of town, I was able to participate by making use of the Internet and the church-sponsored conference calls. Some of these activities include giving testimonies during the Wednesday service, reading from the chapter in Science and Health called “Fruitage” during the Sunday service, attending Sunday Roundtables and Saturday Bible Studies, writing articles, and proofreading.

This did not happen all at once. I began with lots of “baby steps” and much help from a Plainfield practitioner. There have been times when I took three steps forward and two steps back. Yet the overall picture has been one of progress in overcoming various fears that have come up when learning or doing something new.

I see that now I say “yes” more often than “no.” I see participating with and for God as a “Law of the Universe” and will bring each participant blessings. It has been a time of learning that “with God all things are possible.” When I am working with God, there is no bulldozing my way through things. God’s direction comes to me when I am

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quiet and listening, patient and persistent, giving and obedient, and not just trying to get something for myself.



Self-Examination? What For?

Andrew Kidd

In my backyard there is a healthy Rose of Sharon plant growing; but upon closer examination, it is entwined with aggressive weed vines, which would choke out the healthy plant if left alone. As I began untangling these unwelcome intruders, it was evident that my negligence had allowed them to become firmly entrenched, and it required careful persistence to get rid of them without harming the Rose of Sharon.

How like thought! As a constant theme in her Prose Works, Mary Baker Eddy urged her students to guard against complacency in watching thought. One example: “Watch diligently; never desert the post of spiritual observation and self-examination.” (Mis.)

What is this self-examination for? Just like the weed vines, the invading, destructive thoughts blend in, and do not appear harmful, but silently entwine their way around every branch of thought. As an example, a thought of personality, “Mrs. So-and-So is so fine and has such a good understanding,” may seem innocuous enough. But unless God is recognized as the source of all good and all intelligence, including Mrs. So-and-So’s, this thought of personality will take root and corrupt one’s premise of Christian Science practice — perfect Principle and perfect idea, perfect God and perfect man. With this invasive thought, all

proceeding reasoning will be mistaken, and dishonest practice will follow. Can we effectively declare there is one Mind while adulating some person, a mind apart from God?

Hear again Mrs. Eddy's words: "to work out individually and alone, for himself and for others, the sublime ends of human life . . . you must give much time to self-examination and correction; you must control appetite, passion, pride, envy, evil-speaking, resentment, and each one of the innumerable errors that worketh or maketh a lie. Then you can give to the world the benefit of all this, and heal and teach with increased confidence." (Mis.)



One Wise Man Saved a City

Mary Beth Singleterry

Recently I heard something very interesting on the news. There had been a troubled young man who entered an Atlanta elementary school with a semi-automatic rifle and several rounds of ammunition. As he went into the front office, he came upon the school bookkeeper sitting at her desk. Instead of going into a panic, this woman remained very calm, very poised, and also very loving. She quietly engaged this person in a conversation. He felt her kindness and began to open up to her, and she ended up telling him she loved him. The man replied no one had ever said those words to him before, and miraculously he put his weapon down and surrendered to the police.

In the Bible, in the book of Ecclesiastes, there is a story

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about one wise man who saved a city. Well, this one wise bookkeeper truly saved this school. Her name, they say, is Antoinette, and that is all I know about her except that she was very brave, very modest and very humble — seeking no credit for what she had so courageously done. When the news reporter asked her incredulously how could she have remained so calm under such a horrendous circumstance, she replied simply, “I was praying. My only concern was for the safety of all the students.” Mary Baker Eddy says in *Science and Health*, “Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.” She certainly received His divine power and help!

When I was growing up in the elementary school I attended, we always read from the Bible every morning. It was part of our opening exercise. God, coupled with the power of fervent prayer, brings about healing. It is certainly what our schools need more than anything else. Unfortunately, our legislature has taken prayer out of the school room, but it could not stop this one soulful woman from praying and from being that one wise person who saved the city.

When I heard this story, I thought how wonderful and how much publicity it deserves — the power of God in action! In the story of the wise man in *Ecclesiastes*, it ends with the statement “no man remembered that same poor man.” Well, I am here to tell you — we will remember Antoinette and her bravery! We will remember and praise our God for what He accomplished on that day, for all things are possible to Him!!

(Hey, and maybe someday you will be called upon to save a city — so be ready!)

Testimonies of Healing

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

About two months ago, I could not walk at all. I could not sit up in bed. I had pneumonia, my hands shook, and I could barely breathe. The pain was overwhelming. The doctors had told me, due to a back condition, I would soon be a cripple. I wanted to die, and even attempted suicide. In this miserable state I desperately reached out to a Plainfield practitioner.

One of the things I was asked to do was to memorize the 91st Psalm, which I told her I could not do. The practitioner said if I could remember such ugly things from my past, why was it that I could not remember the Word of God?! So I memorized the 91st Psalm and took the deep truths of this psalm into my heart and soul. I began to replace all the constant negativity streaming through my head with the truth about God and His creation. Little by little, I began to feel much better.

A little over two weeks later, I was out working in the hot sun doing manual labor — digging up a foundation and making a deck cover for a ceramic shop I am building. I was rejoicing in this wonderful Truth called Christian Science. I needed a medical exam in order to go back to work, and the doctors were amazed at what happened. I told them I believed in the power of prayer. Christ is the one thing I have been in need of, and I have a great Christ for my need! It was only by the power of Christ that this healing could have transpired.

I am so very grateful for the help of this practitioner, who awakened me to God's tremendous love and healing power. I am so grateful for the Christ Truth that is expressed in this independent church, and for Mrs. Eddy giv-

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ing to us this wonderful Science. I pray that this healing will help and inspire others.

L. T.

New York

I just would like to say how grateful I am to be alive right now. It wasn't long ago that I sort of reached the end of my path, and I turned to God and He found a way to help me and bring me to a better place, and I am very grateful for that.

J. P.

New Jersey

We recently added some computers at the facility where I work. Usually I do all the setup, but the new tech decided to help and do it. He let me know the passwords and since they were very easy, I put off changing them until I learned the new operating system.

A few days later I needed to do some maintenance on the computers and couldn't remember the password. Since it was after hours, the tech was not available. But, rather than getting upset, I knew there was one Mind, God, and I reflected that Mind. Mind doesn't forget so how can I?

It was late, so I went home. When I woke the next morning, the password just came to me and I was able to finish the work.

I am grateful for all that I am learning from the Bible Study and Roundtable, and for help I have been receiving from a practitioner.

C. G.

Wisconsin

God has truly blessed me. I was in the mental darkness of what is called clinical depression with several hospital bouts over the last five years, though I had been a student of Christian Science for some thirty years, belonging to two different Christian Science churches. I could not say I was a Christian Scientist, because obviously I was not succeeding.

CornerStone

Last year I had the great good fortune of finding the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent on the internet. Being generously welcomed and working with a practitioner there, I found the spirit of the truth that had been missing, and my life rather quickly began to turn around. And I can say that I am now, despite continuing challenges of situation, truly filled with joy. On a recent Roundtable discussion about what it is to be a Christian Scientist, I felt afterwards somehow my thought had been lifted to a new level of understanding of how we live and move and have our being in God.

This afternoon when I left the dentist after a cleaning check, she said to me, "You're my last patient today and you've make a good one for me, because of your bright, shining smile."

Thank God for this healing of depression, the prayers of the practitioner, and for all I am learning in the Plainfield Church.

F.M.

Maryland

A few years ago, I began to experience hot flashes. I realized there was something to learn here, so I asked God to show me what I needed to know. The thought came that all I can ever feel is the warmth of God's love — and that can only bless me! I also remembered Hymn No. 148, which says, "In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear; and safe is such confiding for nothing changes here." I am a spiritual idea of God, and that can never change!

My whole attitude toward the experience changed. I no longer felt disturbed about it, but instead, stood strong with these truths every time a flash would try to intrude. They became progressively less and less, and within just a few weeks, completely disappeared.

I am so grateful that each situation that arises is an opportunity to learn more of God and His creation. Thank

Testimonies

God for Mary Baker Eddy, who gave us this wonderful Science. It truly does meet every need.

C. C.
New Jersey

Recently I was having a wonderful day till I became aware of a pain in my back between the shoulder blades. I called a practitioner from our church for prayerful help, and then sat down to read in Science and Health, "Mental Treatment Illustrated." Quite suddenly I realized that the pain was gone and has not returned.

I am so grateful for this rapid and complete healing work of the practitioner.

J. D.
Arizona

The other evening, out of the blue, something snapped in my knee. The pain was extreme, though I knew it was a lie and didn't belong to me. In a very short time I realized I needed help and called my practitioner in Plainfield. As usual, always on duty, she started working immediately. She gave me a few hymns and citations to work with and, in spite of some pain, I was able to sleep through the night.

I couldn't walk the next day, but the pain subsided a great deal. The day was much better, and the practitioner continued to help me as I prayed and studied. The following day I was walking and leaping and praising God. I even danced a little, with such joy and gratitude.

I find with every healing that I always receive added blessings — instruction and, oh yes, needed correction also. How great it is to have someone talk to you, expressing divine Love, and opening your eyes to things that either you didn't know or have forgotten.

I love Christian Science with all my heart, and thank you all at Plainfield for keeping it alive.

B. B.
Illinois



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Broadcast the Truth

“Freely ye have received, freely give”