

SERMONS
AND
ARTICLES
ON
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

BY
DORIS WHITE EVANS

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**This church is in no way affiliated with
The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This book has been written by a life-long Christian Scientist, Doris White Evans.

Mrs. Evans was born and raised in New York City. She attended Fourth Church of Christ Scientist, where both her parents were members. Her father, George White, served Fourth Church in many capacities; as usher, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, First Reader and Board Chairman. There were four hundred children in Fourth Church Sunday School, and several hundred members in the church. Mr. White was also a practitioner who did fine healing work.

Alice White, Mrs. Evans' mother, taught Sunday School, was Reading Room librarian, served as Second Reader and Board Member. Mrs. White also practiced Christian Science, and comforted many people with her healing love.

Mrs. Evans had the privilege of working with a dedicated practitioner in Fourth Church, Mrs. Carrie Ritchie, who was an outstanding healer and her Sunday School teacher. After Mrs. Evans married, she moved to New Jersey, where she became a member of First Church of Christ Scientist, Plainfield, New Jersey, and where she served in many capacities; Sunday School teacher, Clerk, Board Member, and Second Reader. She had Class instruction with Mrs. Jeanne Roe Price, a Journal-listed teacher.

Mrs. Evans' practitioner card appeared in the Christian Science Journal in 1962, where it remained until 1976. Mrs. Evans became widely known in this country and internationally for her remarkable healing work.

In the twenty-two years since Plainfield Church became independent of Boston, Mrs. Evans has continued her wonderful healing work; she has given numerous

About the Author

Classes on Christian Science; and she also edits the church's many publications, including "HealingThoughts" magazine, the independent Lesson Sermon Quarterly, and the Church Newsletter.

This book, Sermons and Articles on Christian Science, is the fruitage of many years of consecrated and courageous service to Mary Baker Eddy's absolute Christian Science. In clear, direct language, Mrs. Evans explains how Christian Science heals quickly and permanently, how it purifies character and brings great happiness into our lives.

Mrs. Evans lovingly dedicates this book to all who love Christian Science.

CHURCH. The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and healing the sick.

Mary Baker Eddy

ABBREVIATIONS

WORKS BY MARY BAKER EDDY

S&H	Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures
Mis. Wr.	Miscellaneous Writings
My.	First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany
Message for '02	Message to the First Church of Christ Scientist or The Mother Church, 1902
Un.	Unity of Good
Manual	Manual of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts, 88th edition

OTHER

C.S. Journal	Christian Science Journal
Hymn	All hymns referred to are from the Christian Science Hymnal

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SERMONS

Independence Day

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

Sunday, July 6, 1986

The Christian Science Church is founded on the principles of liberty.

In 1866 a lone woman had a healing of an accident that was considered fatal by her physicians. Through reading the Bible, she found herself suddenly healed. That lone woman, in a day when women had few rights, went on to pray, study, ponder, and to find a system, the Science of Christianity, the Science which Jesus Christ practiced when he walked the hills of Galilee. The religion she founded is wonderful because it frees mankind from sin and suffering. It uplifts the sorrowing. It raises the dead. We have seen it raise the dead here in Plainfield, twice in the hospital, where it was medically attested to by the doctors, and elsewhere in the city. We are grateful that the works Jesus did were not just for his time, but as he said, "for all mankind in all time to come."

Yesterday, we had come into our possession an official declaration of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the Wesleyan Conference in regard to Christian Science. The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1764, and this is their resolution, dated October 1985:

As a Methodist Conference, we have studied the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science and author of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, and have found that these works have many truths with which we agree. We now join our voices in the following.

What you are now going to read are the Tenets of Christian Science; this is what the Methodist Conference has joined their voices in agreeing with.

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1. As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
2. We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.
3. We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.
4. We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way- shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.
5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.
6. And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure.

Mary Baker Eddy

These are the Tenets of the Christian Science Church which the Methodist Episcopal Church (Wesleyan Conference) has now adopted. In their paper they have said further,

We define, in this further definition, as follows: We believe man is spiritual because the Holy Scriptures declare that He made them in His image and

Independence Day

likeness. We believe God created all things, for the Holy Scriptures declare that in St. John's Gospel, 1st Chapter, 3rd Verse, "All things were made by Him." We believe all things He made were good because the Holy Scriptures declare it in the 1st Book of Genesis. We do not believe God the author of sin. We do not believe that God is the author of sickness. We do not believe that God is the author of death. We believe that God is not the author of these because these are all His opposites. We believe that these only exist in those who are not in Christ Jesus, and they do not believe in the Truth as taught by Christ. We further believe and teach that when we believe in sin, sickness and death, we suffer because we make God the lie and believe not Christ's own words. He said, "He that believeth in me shall never see death."

Therefore, we must conclude the following: That Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, discoverer and founder of Christian Science and author of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, was inspired by Almighty God to be an apostle of His healing and Science, to show to others what He had shown her, that men sought not to understand, understood not, because they believed not. Hence, they tried to discredit Mrs. Eddy and the work God had called her to do, but they prevailed not. Therefore, we give thanks to Almighty God for our increased knowledge—Science—of men through the work, ministry, life of Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Eddy. Therefore, it is authorized in this Wesleyan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church that Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy be taught and explained throughout our Zion for the health of our people,

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called Methodist. Signed, for the conference, this 23rd day of October in the Year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-five. Sealed with the official seal of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Also included with this, from the Methodist Episcopal Church Conference, was a note concerning the Bethesda Home which they maintain.

The Bethesda Home is a haven which offers practical assistance toward healing of sickness and removal of distress. Bethesda Home is a haven of healing for both the body and soul by the principles expressed in Science and Health by Mary Baker Eddy. It is a home where the principle that "God is love" is expressed. And then they quote from our beloved Leader:

"The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, full of faith, receptive to Truth and Love." Mary Baker Eddy, Science and Health, page 395.

Isn't it wonderful that this letter came on Independence Day! We've been an independent church since 1977, not through our own choice. We would not have broken away from The Mother Church at that time. They removed us. We've continued to practice Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science and to obey her teachings. Mrs. Eddy made a prophecy that if the lives of Christian Scientists attested their fidelity, many churches in this land and in foreign lands would approximate the understanding of Christian Science sufficiently to heal the sick in its name by the end of this century.

This is the first and very large sign, the Methodist Episcopal Church accepting the Leader of this religion as the great prophet she was; a humble follower of God, and of the works of Jesus Christ. We, too, are humble followers of God, of Jesus Christ, and of our beloved Leader,

Independence Day

Mary Baker Eddy, from whose direction we will never stray.

It is a wonderful thing, that we're gathered here today. Many of you have moved here from places like California, Washington State, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York, Canada; and we have a far-flung membership in many places throughout the U.S. and Europe. All of these members are good, loving people who want to see this wonderful Science spread throughout the world, as Mrs. Eddy prophesied it would do.

The purpose of this church is healing. Mrs. Eddy's intent was that people be able to demonstrate freedom from trouble, trouble of every kind; and as our Lesson said today, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people." That's the purpose of every activity, every prayer that we pray. It's our purpose in life, to demonstrate the healing power of God as shown to us by Jesus and by Mrs. Eddy.

The Lesson said in Science and Health that, "patience must have her perfect work." We have been patient. We will continue to be patient. Someone once defined patience as "confident expectancy of good." It isn't sitting with our hands folded and hoping. It's standing, praying, loving and continuing to do right. We love our brother, and our fellow man. We stand for what is right in our homes, our community, our businesses, and our world. If we're going to heal the world, we must be sure that we understand the most important point that Mrs. Eddy preached, which is the allness of God and the nothingness of evil. Evil is a false, hypnotic picture. It has no power or reality. God governs all.

This is a holy and a sacred moment. Mrs. Eddy is being given proper recognition at long last. We rejoice that this is only the beginning of a glorious spiritual awakening.

A Follow-Up on the Methodist Episcopal Church Report

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church November 1986

Last week we received a phone call from Bishop Jim Cason of the Methodist Episcopal Church, from Spring- hill, Louisiana. He told us that there is a tremendous interest in Christian Science (not the Boston organization, but Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science). The Methodist Episcopal are teaching Christian Science healing and Christian Science nursing. They also have a Christian Science Sanatorium.

Ministers from other churches call and ask Bishop Cason to teach Christian Science in their churches. There has been a great response from the Fundamentalist churches. Also, the Church of God in Christ, a black church, is interested in learning Christian Science healing. They want to learn how to cure poverty, among other things.

Bishop Cason has been asked to teach Christian Science in Japan. The Japanese are raising money so he can visit Japan and teach classes.

A religious leader in Taiwan, who has a following of over one hundred thousand, is translating Science and Health into Chinese because they all see it as the Truth.

Christian Science is certainly being released by God from the restrictive limits of ecclesiastical despotism. Mrs. Eddy's desire was that the world be blessed by her discovery. God is bringing it to pass.

The Early Days

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

Sunday, September 21, 1986

Good morning. The other day I was reading from The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany, by Mary Baker Eddy. In it there were newspaper accounts of the dedication of The Mother Church. Six services were held, and 30,000 people came to those six services. The newspaper accounts were most interesting because they marveled at the fact, that when Christian Science first appeared it was thought to be a strange cult, something that wasn't going to last. The newspaper accounts, without exception, stated that the type of person who came to this Annual Meeting was intelligent, well-read and independent, and that the religion certainly had lasted.

These newspaper articles were written in 1906. At that time a Christian Scientist risked going to jail for his beliefs. He was a revolutionary because he trusted his life to God's healing power. This was a very new and radical thought. People had been indoctrinated with the idea that the body was self-acting and that whatever happened to it could not be changed. Along came Christian Science and said no, that is not so. The body is as unthinking as a horse that you get on and ride. You say, "Go left" and the horse goes left, and you say, "Go right" and the horse goes right. He obeys your commands. Christian Science teaches that the body obeys what it's told to do, if it is told properly, and controlled through the understanding of God.

Independent thinkers! The people who came to the dedication ceremony were thinking with God. True independence doesn't mean flying around doing foolish things. It means that as each thing comes up, asking, "What do You want me to do, Father?" And then listening

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for His answer, and obeying it. That is what independent thinking is all about. If a person practices independent thinking, it becomes more and more natural for him to ask at once, "Father, God, what do You say?" when he gets into a position where an immediate decision needs to be made, in business or elsewhere. This is the disciplined thought that turns to God, finds out what the Father has to say, and then, DOES IT.

Independent thinking is not a renegade going off and getting into trouble. Independent thinking, as we understand it, is a strong, consistent desire to do right in the sight of God, to live the Golden Rule, to be loving, kind, and good, and not be trampled by error. Christian Scientists are not milksops. They have strong opinions derived from going to God.

Those 30,000 Christian Scientists who attended the dedication of The Mother Church, were only a small percentage of those following Christian Science at that time. They staked their lives upon Mary Baker Eddy's discovery and found that it healed them of every ill.

In the Lesson today we heard of Jesus' three temptations. It was so comforting to think even that great worker, Jesus Christ, was tempted. Should we mourn if we're tempted? No, but we should study what he did and find out how he overcame the temptations that came to him.

He had been fasting for forty days. He must have been terribly hungry. If a temptation is going to come to any one of you, it is going to come as something that you're going to fall for, something that seems to relate very closely to your daily life.

So the first thing the devil said to Jesus was, "If you're so hungry and you're so great, why don't you make these stones bread?" Jesus could have thought, "I'll make the

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stones bread now, because when I have eaten, I can meet this devil more easily." But he didn't fall for it. He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Then came the second temptation. The devil took him to a high mountain and said, "Throw yourself down and prove that you can control your body and live." But Jesus didn't fall for that one, either. He knew better. He refused to go along with such a lie. He answered, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Then, along came the third temptation, the grossest of all. "If you'll stop living the Christ, and being the Son of God, I'll give you all the kingdoms of the world and you will have all the glory."

There is a good lesson here to be learned by all of us. When the first two temptations came, Jesus tried to reason with them. The first, "Thou shalt not live by bread alone," he tried to answer in a civil manner. The second one came, and he got a little stronger, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." It is a pretty serious thing to tempt God. But when the third temptation came, he had risen to his full stature as the Son of God, and he said, "Get thee hence, Satan." Get the heck out of here! Those were not soft words. And when he did that, the devil knew that he meant business. It left him alone, and angels came and ministered unto him; the peaceful, God-filled angel thoughts that were waiting for him to rise to the point where he would tell error to get out, in no uncertain terms.

The Lesson went on to say that Jesus found certain men in a ship and invited them to come and be his disciples. "Immediately they left the ship" and whatever they were doing, and followed him.

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This is a question that we need to ask within our hearts. If Jesus were here today and said, "Come and give up your life, your home, your profession," would we immediately leave whatever we were doing and follow him?

The Christ is here today, and we are being asked to leave error immediately. We're never required to leave behind anything good. We're only required to leave behind the things that would harm and hold us back, limit us and eventually condemn us.

Are we willing to leave those things behind and really walk with God? The things that we hang on to out of fear, thinking that there is some good in them? They prevent us from giving our hearts to God, in the full obedience that brings such peace. And with this peace, come prosperity, health and joy; an abundance of good that comes so naturally to those who walk with God.

And when good comes through people, as it so often does, do we give God the glory and say, "Thank you, Father, for the good that came through your blessed child," realizing that no one acts independently of God? People act because God works in them and any good that is, comes from God.

The definition of matter given in Science and Health is: mythology; a false view that is destructive to life and happiness, a false view of what's real. That's all matter is. Science and Health also states that outside of Science all is vague and hypothetical. Oh, how true! You read a theory in a book or magazine and then it's turned around and reversed. If you've accepted it, it pulls the rug right out from under you. New theories are constantly coming up and a year or two later are rejected. Don't buy it.

God never changes. The truths of being never change. They are steady. They never fail. They hold man

The Early Days

in perfect peace and harmony. Our job is to keep thought stayed on what is real, and refuse to be taken in by the vague, hypothetical statements of mortal mind. Not one of them holds water. There's no truth in them.

Christian Science is the Science of Christianity. The Bible says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." Truth never changes.

Christian Science is unchanging good. Mrs. Eddy says, "The proof of this system is in the good it accomplishes." And Science accomplishes such good healing, such a standard of perfection. It is God's plan working for man. Mrs. Eddy also said, "You can prove for yourself that this Science is real."

The last hundred pages of the Christian Science textbook consist of a chapter called "Fruitage." In that chapter it tells of people who in the early days of Christian Science, read Science and Health and were healed of the most dreadful situations and diseases. It also says that in those days they couldn't even buy Science and Health, but had to borrow it from someone else. It would often be the only copy the person had, and it would be a tremendous sacrifice to loan it. They would have to send to a distant city to get a copy of the book.

Today Science and Health is here. It is ours. God has given it to us. The only hope the devil has, is that we won't read it. Or if we do, go over it in such a superficial manner that we fail to see the tremendous truths that are stated therein, that have for over a hundred years healed the sick, raised the dead, brought prosperity and blessing to mankind, and will continue to do this great good forever.

Christian Science clearly states that man is the image and likeness of God. Every man, everywhere, is in Truth the image and likeness of God. If you see him that way,

Sermons and Articles

and love him, you will find him acting that way. I know how many of you have found this to be true wherever you go. When you pass through the world with that attitude of thought, people love what you are. They love to be near you, they love to do for you, because they feel the comfort of one who is seeing them as God made them, beautiful, upright and free.

That's what this Science is all about. It's a wonderful and joyous way of living. Thank God that He has brought us to it and that we can, and will, use it to the fullest. The practice of Christian Science is not an intellectual exercise. It is merely taking everything to God and finding out what He says about it. It is not being concerned with human opinions. It is not asking human advice, but it is finding out what God wants, and then doing it, and when doing it, having the tremendous joy and blessing that comes from obedience to the Lord God Almighty.

God's law is life-giving and life-sustaining, eternally. Doing good and thinking good sustains life.

Mary Baker Eddy

God's idea of church is forever established in Mind. Christian Science will stand forever, because it is God's blessing to mankind.

Doris White Evans

All that is within me is the spirit of victory.

Mary Baker Eddy

The Nature of Illusion

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

February 15, 1987

Good morning, loved children of God.

There was something very interesting the other day on television, concerning the nature of illusion, the nature of misdirection; how human thought can be misdirected to think it sees what it does not see. A famous magician named Blackstone performed a trick for twenty years that no one was ever able to figure out. The trick was this: The magician appeared on a stage before a thousand people, and began to pull handkerchiefs out of a tube. After a time, a young lady stepped out of this tube. He continued the performance, removed more handkerchiefs from the tube, and a donkey appeared. For twenty years he fooled people with this illusion. And when he retired, he was willing to tell how he had done it. He said, "It was clearly a case of misdirection" (which is what magic is all about, and also what animal magnetism is all about). While he was pulling the colorful handkerchiefs out of the tube, people were much engrossed. And when the young woman appeared, they were very engrossed. And while that audience of a thousand was watching him do this, he quietly took two steps into the wings, brought out the donkey that was waiting, covered it with colored kerchiefs, and brought it out to the front of the stage; and no one saw him do it. For twenty years, no one ever saw it, because they had been misdirected to be watching what wasn't the main event.

Pretty good lesson for the metaphysician, isn't it? We have been misdirected by mortal mind to watch a human body, or a human pocketbook, or a human business situation; and to be so wrapped up in that, that we don't

see that right where the problem seems to be, there the Lord God Almighty is in full power and presence, and complete willingness to care for His creation. What a good lesson! If you're ever tempted to get so wrapped up, and obsessed by a problem, declare that you will not have your thinking misdirected by the devil, so that you are not able to see the tremendous good and harmony that are right there with you, ready to operate in your behalf.

The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." In all thy ways. Do we, as we go about our affairs, see that God is present in every situation? If we're in a triumphant state of mind, the temptation is to think, "Well, I don't really need Him now; I'll wait until later." And if we're in a defeated state of mind, the temptation is, "I'm sunk so low that He wouldn't even hear me, so what's the use?" That's the way error always works, to get you to lean on this feeble thing called your own understanding, which is misdirected thought; and it will keep you in the realm of illusion, accepting what isn't good, until you finally rouse yourself and realize that you can call upon a God so great, so glorious, so kind and merciful, and have His power operate in your behalf to wake you from the hypnotized state that animal magnetism would try to put you in.

The Bible tells us, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delighteth in his way." God delights in us. God is delighting in every one, watching over, caring for, protecting us. This kind, good, loving God answers prayer and cares for all His creation. There's nothing in this universe that is outside of God's love and care. There is no unhealable disease. There is no unforgivable sin. There is no impossible situation. God never said that;

The Nature of Illusion

and therefore, we do not need to be misdirected into believing what could not possibly be true. The hogwash of the devil is unacceptable to the man who walks with God.

We heard a very interesting story the other day from a fine Scientist, a friend of ours. He saw an old friend after many, many years and was led to remark on what beautiful teeth she had. He'd never noticed them before. And she said, "Well, that's an interesting story; and I'd like to tell you what happened to me." She said she'd been having trouble with her teeth and had gone to a dentist. He said, "All your teeth are discolored and decayed, and they need to come out at once." And she said, "Well, I don't want to do anything about it right now. I will contact you later." And she took this problem to God. She refused to let her thought be misdirected by materia medica calling itself dentistry. And she decided that she was going to see the perfect man everywhere. She found a beautiful verse in Song of Solomon which said in essence, "Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep; none of them barren; all perfect." She began to study Mrs. Eddy's writings; and she found an interesting fact: That two words were always coupled in Mrs. Eddy's writings. These words were "discord" and "decay." As she thought more deeply on it, she realized she needed to go back into her experience, and see that there had never been discord from the moment she appeared on this planet. She needed to wipe out the belief that any discordant situation had ever taken place in her life. And so she did. She worked at this for many months, beholding the perfect child of God everywhere she went, making sure she didn't see anybody unloving, impatient, sick, or hateful, refusing to let error misdirect her thought. After many months, she went back to the dentist. He examined her and said, "These are not the same

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teeth,” because they were perfect, bright, and beautiful. And they showed in her mouth as they never had before, and there was not one trace of decay.

Think about it: “Discord” and “decay” always coupled in our Leader’s writings. Go back in your thinking and make sure that you haven’t stored some picture of discord that may have seemed to happen to you in years past, that you aren’t keeping it around where it can spring up and bring forth a nasty picture, one that God never made, that God does not support; and therefore, that with a clear understanding of Him, can be destroyed.

We had a long-distance call this morning from someone who had received our magazine, ‘Healing Thoughts,’ through the mail. They said they were deeply impressed by the content, that it was so full of spiritual power and love. They said the magazine begins simply. The things that first appear are simple and easy to understand. But about halfway through, it turns and becomes profound. They said that the way it had been put together could have been by nothing other than God’s direction and plan. It has been God directing every thing we’ve been doing here. It’s been God upbuilding this church, into a widespread membership of wonderful workers. Let’s put our prayers behind this lovely magazine and know that its blessing is spreading. We’ve had many good reports. It’s going everywhere, blessing and healing.

Our church is made up of God’s ideas claiming their immortal privilege to do as the Bible says, “becoming the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in,” the restorer of Mary Baker Eddy’s pure and wonderful sense of church. This is our God-appointed mission and it’s our God-given right to fulfill it. It’s our God-given joy to walk in this path, with triumph, tenderness, and love.

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Love opens every door. It heals as nothing else will. As Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, "The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love." (p. 367) And also, in the trial, *Science and Health* tells us, Christian Science (the counsel for Mortal Man, who has been condemned to death in the Court of Error) looks at the patient with utmost tenderness, and brings about his healing. Let's look at each other with utmost tenderness. And let's look at the world in the same way. This will heal as nothing else can.

And let's keep on thanking God for our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy, who humbly and faithfully followed God's direction. In that way we'll never stray from the right path.

Wherever I am, no matter what I am confronted with, I must see the man God made. And most of all, I must love him.

Doris White Evans

The kingdom of heaven is at hand: Wherever God is, is heaven, and He is everywhere, omnipotent and omnipresent.

Mary Baker Eddy

Those who have turned to the fountainhead of Being for the solution of any problem, have brought such titanic force into intelligent activity, that the results may seem incredible.

Mary Baker Eddy

The Lesson of Obedience

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

August 1987

This morning as I was sitting here listening to the Lesson given to us through the love of God, I began to think of how the children of Israel came into Egypt. They went there for a wonderful purpose. It was Joseph who had brought them there four hundred years before, when he saved Pharaoh and his people from famine. Soon he brought his brothers there and forgave them for having tried to kill him and sell him into slavery. They were all saved and went to live in Egypt in peace, because Joseph had earned, through faithfulness to God, a high position, and was next only to Pharaoh in power.

And I couldn't help but think about Mrs. Eddy's wonderful revelation and the Christian Science movement. God's people in Egypt let their standard slip, and they began to fall into the fleshpots of Egypt; idol worshiping, and sin. Evil claims to be contagious, and instead of holding faithfully to the one God whose power had been proven in their lives, they fell into idolatry; and with their fall into idolatry, and slow decline as generation followed generation, they fell into slavery. They were trusted slaves. They were allowed to be armed, because it was a wild place, where marauding tribes came and attacked the Egyptians. The slaves had to carry weapons to protect themselves and their masters' households.

After four hundred years of slavery, God decreed that it was time for the Israelites to come out from the flesh- pots of Egypt, with all its evils. So Moses was sent by God to Pharaoh saying, "The Lord God saith, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me.' If thou refuse, the hand of the Lord is on your cattle. They shall all die." But Pharaoh wouldn't listen and all the Egyptians' cattle died; but not

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the Israelites' cattle. Still, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not listen.

Again, Moses went to Pharaoh and said that the Lord had directed him to sprinkle handfuls of ashes before Pharaoh, and to tell him that if he did not let the people go, there would come an epidemic of boils. Pharaoh again would not listen. The boils came, and even Pharaoh's magicians could not stand before Moses' prediction, for they too had boils. Still, Pharaoh's heart was hardened. This is an unpleasant picture, dear ones. Do you see yourselves in any of it? Do you see where God has been speaking, and still you haven't listened?

So we continue. Early in the morning, Moses went to Pharaoh and again warned him that there would be plagues; hail and fire would smite every man, beast, tree and herb. But Pharaoh still wouldn't listen. And so hail and fire smote every Egyptian, every one of their beasts, every tree, and destroyed every herb. At this point, Pharaoh said, "Oh, entreat the Lord, Moses, that there be no more thunderings. I have sinned, I will let you go." But, as soon as the destruction stopped, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the children of Israel go.

I've seen, over the years in the practice, when somebody's been hit pretty hard by error, they say, "Oh, please, God, help me. I'll obey you right now." And the minute they get well, they repeat the same old error again. What a lesson this Bible story is!

Again, Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before Me? Let My people go that they may serve Me. If you refuse, I will bring locusts to cover the face of the earth, to eat the residue that remaineth unto you from the hail and they shall fill your houses and your servants' houses and all the houses of the Egyptians.'" At this point, Pharaoh's servants advised him to let Moses go,

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because he had destroyed Egypt. But Pharaoh wouldn't listen. Do you see any of yourselves there? Take a good look. How much is it going to take to make you listen?

However, Pharaoh, still stubborn, wanted to let only the men go and keep the rest for slaves. So locusts came and darkened all the earth, and no green thing remained. Again Pharaoh called Moses in haste and said, "Forgive my sin this once, and ask the Lord to take away this death." So the Lord sent a strong wind and cast the locusts into the Red Sea. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he wouldn't let them go. Then thick darkness came on all Egypt for three days, but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. And then Pharaoh, pressed to the wall, said, "Go, but not the flocks or herds." Moses said, "We must have them, because they are part of our worship of our God." And Pharaoh hardened his heart again, and Moses then forecast that, "The firstborn of every Egyptian shall die, even from Pharaoh that sitteth on his throne, and not a tongue shall move against any of the children of Israel. The Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." And Pharaoh's heart was still hardened. And the firstborn of each Egyptian died, and the firstborn of their cattle and of their horses died.

And then Moses and the children of Israel withdrew to their God in worship and in prayer. From that prayer came the Passover; the children of Israel's houses were passed over when the plagues came. And finally, Pharaoh let them go. And they went out harnessed. Harnessed means they went out armed, because there were roving bands of marauders out there, ready to pillage and kill.

Pharaoh once again changed his mind, and when Moses came to the Red Sea, pursued by the Egyptians, it opened. But, before the sea opened, Moses raised his arm for the children of Israel to go forward, and the sea then

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opened, that was how thorough his trust was in his God. And when the children of Israel had passed through on dry land, God spoke and the waters closed. And the Egyptians and their chariots and horses drowned, every one! They were the best captains, chosen by Pharaoh, along with all their men. This is a lesson in the stubbornness of the human mind. If you are withholding anything from God, don't do it. This is a lesson for us. We should prosper and learn from it, and withhold nothing from our God. We don't need plagues, death and destruction.

Another interesting point is that when the children of Israel began their march in the wilderness, they had taken on the contagion of idol worship, and materialism. They would not listen to Moses. They would not listen to the Truth. And they wandered in a small area for forty years, an area of five hundred miles which they could have traversed in two months, had they been willing to listen, and obey God.

It's a tremendous lesson! It's something that we can learn from, and profit by. We have God's work to do. No power can bind us. Nothing can hold us back, or keep us from doing what God has given us to do, and what we truly desire to do for Him. This lesson in the Bible should be enough to break the back of any error that may be trying to bind you. Don't fight against your God. Don't argue with Right. Don't waffle and justify. Obey quickly. If your love for God is sincere, you'll act when He speaks to you, and you won't whine or in any way withhold what you owe God, which is your love and obedience. Let's be sure we all do it and go up harnessed. And that means armed with Truth to do God's work, not foolishly or in a do-goody way, but firm and strong. It starts right here with us: Love, honesty, caring, doing right, and putting God first at all times.

Jacob and Esau

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

Sunday, November 22, 1987

We've had many letters from people saying how much they are enjoying our chorus. The music was absolutely wonderful! It's the music of Soul, sung by those whose hearts are beating for God, and it brings such inspiration to all of us. It's fresh, and glorious. We thank God for it; another divine idea from God being put into practice.

Today I want to talk to you about Jacob. It's a very interesting story. When Isaac was forty years old, he took Rebekah to wife, and she was barren. She was a good woman who prayed to her God, and God gave her twins who were named Jacob and Esau.

At this point in history, spiritual development was dim. There was idol worship in the land and evil appeared to be rampant. And error put forth the lie that with everything good comes an equal amount of evil. The twins that Rebekah had conceived, fought with each other, even in the womb. And when they were delivered, they were at enmity with each other.

The first born was Esau. He was therefore entitled to inherit everything from his father, Isaac. Esau became a hunter, a rough-hewn man's man. His father had great empathy with him. Esau was accustomed to hunt venison, and to fix his father savory meat which he loved. His father favored him greatly.

The other son, Jacob, was a city man. He dwelt in the tents. He didn't go out to hunt. He was smooth, where Esau was hairy. Jacob was not one to venture out into the wild. He was perhaps a more refined thought, but he was also a devious one. And it didn't help him at all that he was his mother's favorite, and he became his mother's spoiled child.

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The Bible tells of how Esau went out hunting one day and Jacob stayed home and made a tasty pot of lentils with bread. Later Esau returned very hungry and said to Jacob, "Please let me have something to eat. I'm weak and fainting with hunger, and I'll die if you don't feed me." But Jacob, being ever the opportunist, said, "No, I won't give you anything to eat unless you sell me your birthright." And Esau, because he was desperate, and hadn't truly valued his birthright, sold it to Jacob. That was Jacob's first attempt to rob his brother of his inheritance.

At a later date, Jacob's mother said, "Your father is old. He's ready to give his blessing to your brother before he dies. He has sent your brother out to hunt venison, and make him savory meat and bless him before he dies. We'll outwit them. Go to the flocks and get a goat, and I'll make savory meat that your father loves." Jacob did as his mother suggested and went in to his father and deceived him, and took the blessing that belonged to his brother.

Then the mother heard that Esau, furious, had vowed that as soon as his father died he would kill Jacob. So she said, "Oh no! We must have peace at all costs. Jacob, Esau wants to kill you; run away to my brother Laban. Esau will stay here. I can't lose two of my sons at the same time." This is the selfishness of mortal mind! "You flee, and this will stop the fight. Meanwhile, Esau will be here, so I'll have one of my children with me." A pretty disgusting picture of the workings of mortal mind!

So Jacob left and went to his uncle. When he got there, his uncle, a rich man, received him with great joy. Here was his beloved nephew! He trusted Jacob, and put him in charge of the flocks. And what did Jacob do? He cheated his uncle. He stayed for seven years. And he bred

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the sheep in such a way that his flock became fat and strong, and the uncle's became poor and weak.

At that point, he realized that he'd better go back to his own country and make things right. He started on his way, and Laban, his uncle, followed him, a very angry man. He was ready to kill him because he had tricked him. He said, "How dare you do this! You've taken my sons and daughters and you've also taken my riches." Jacob was going back a very rich man with hundreds of sheep, as well as Laban's sons and daughters and goods.

After a time, they made peace, and Jacob went on his way, still needing further and permanent reform. That's when he was left alone to wrestle with this devil that had handled him for so long. And the reason he had to wrestle, was because God had something He wanted him to do, and he was the best one available at that time in history; the best of a poor lot. And so he wrestled with his error.

The thing that impressed me greatly, was that Jacob wouldn't let go or give up. The error which was turning into a blessing, then said, "Let me go. You're beginning to understand this thing." But Jacob said, "No. I won't let you go except you bless me." He wouldn't quit. He held on, and demanded that from this grievous struggle, he was having a blessing. And then the truth about the situation appeared to him and he saw that he was entertaining an angel in disguise.

And that was what God was looking for: someone who wouldn't quit, or complain, who wouldn't whine and say, "Why me?" but who would stand, in spite of his awful history of making one mistake after another. That was the test that he had to pass.

Jacob then went back home after his mighty struggle,

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having once and for all burned out the error that he had repeated over and over. And Esau met him with joy and there was peace between them because Jacob loved him as a son of God, and saw him right.

Think about this history, dear ones. And think about the fact that a mighty patriarch evolved from what appeared to be a miserable sinner, a mistake-maker, a constant troublemaker. And yet, God knew his true being, God tested him, he measured up and did what God wanted. But, his path wasn't easy. When everything seemed calm and peaceful, error was still there waiting. But Jacob stood, and overcame it all.

So, if everything seems calm and beautiful, and suddenly something troublesome rears up, so what! We'll just keep on, like the patriarchs of the Bible, keep on going forward, keep our joy, and power, and with love, serve the Lord God Almighty who has chosen us to do this work. Here we stand, so help us God. And He does.

It only takes a minute to know that evil is a false belief. If it isn't good, it isn't coming from God.

Doris White Evans

What a reassuring and comforting thought for a member to have, namely, that he belongs to a Church that loves him, and is working and praying constantly for his good, rather than one that is watching him constantly, and ready to admonish and even discipline him if he strays one step from the path laid down.

Gilbert Carpenter

Good News

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

Sunday, November 22, 1987

As you all know, we've sent out a letter to our correspondents, telling them that there is a need, financially, since Boston has continued their legal harassment. In the last three days we have received \$3,000.00, along with letters of love, support and appreciation from all over the United States and abroad, in amounts of \$500, \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50, \$25 or \$10. To each one who has contributed to this cause, we have immediately sent a loving letter of gratitude. And if they don't have our magazine, 'Healing Thoughts,' we've sent them a copy, as a token of our appreciation for their steadfast support. Many of these people have been with us since the beginning of this fight for freedom. And whenever there's been a call, and a need for help, they've come through with their checks, and their letters of staunch support. We are so grateful for each and every one.

We also had another wonderful letter from Mrs. Eddy's great-granddaughter, applying for membership in this church, and saying that she felt it was time that a member of Mary Baker Eddy's family became part of the only true Christian Science Church in the world. Those of us who read the mail, wept. It was such a sign from God.

This independent movement began ten years ago, when Boston removed our church listing from the Journal, without cause. At that time some of us walked with our heads held low. We had to learn to raise them to see the glory of God, and not be dismayed by slanderous gossip from Boston; to forgive and "love more for every hate and fear." (Hymn 207) And we have loved, and worked, and met each challenge as it came. And here we are now,

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grateful, victorious, and walking humbly with God. Our membership is ten times larger than it was in 1977 when Boston removed us, and we have the great joy of welcoming new members from every state in the Union, as well as from abroad.

If any of you have felt little stirrings this week, don't be disturbed. If you were the devil, and saw before you the very thing you did not want—a real Christian Science Church, publishing an inspiring Quarterly and a wonderful magazine—you might be quite upset. But evil is powerless to stop this holy work, because God is in the midst of it, guiding and guarding. Each week we have applications for membership from people all over the globe who are uniting with us. The church is growing constantly, and we thank God for it.

I thought as I sat here looking at all of you this morning, how very grateful I am for the steadfastness and love that has stood through all the attempts that error has made to divide and destroy us. And you've stood and worked, and you haven't been taken off. This now is the glory time. Walk with care, dear hearts, in this glory time, staying close to God, listening for God's voice in everything you do. This is a mighty mission that God has given us the privilege, and joy, of fulfilling.

Never doubt that God is at hand, willing and ready to help us, as we call upon Him.

George White

There is nothing God can't do. There is no impossible situation. God answers righteous prayer.

Doris White Evans

Who Is on God's Side?

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

Sunday, February 14, 1988

Good morning. And this is God's good morning. The solo, The Transfiguration, which was sung so beautifully, is a great favorite. It brings tears of reverence every time we hear it. It tells us that we are all "starting fresh as from a second birth," being reborn into Truth, the spirit of good, which will never change.

God has cared for this church for a long time. Many years ago, when there was no apparent need for it, the thought came to one of our faithful senior members that we should have a parking lot. At that time there were few cars on the street, and we could park quite easily. However, we listened to God, and when a house two doors from this church became available, we were able to buy it for \$19,000, demolish it, and build a small parking lot. There was also a house right in back of the church, which separated us from our parking lot, but it wasn't for sale. So we used our small parking lot, and filled it up, gratefully. Then a dear member left us \$20,000, and at the same time the house behind us became available for exactly \$20,000. So we trusted God, bought the house, and we now have a large parking lot that is completely filled and overflowing. The street is now crowded, and without our large parking lot we would have a severe parking problem. A loving God met our need before we knew we had it.

More recently the idea came that we might need a larger print room in the future. However, it didn't seem necessary just then. But we trusted God, and listened carefully. An idea came to excavate under our foyer, and create a large print room, with our members doing all of the work. It was certainly a right idea. The subscription

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rate has tripled since then. There is now a pressing need for more space. The member-builders have had a glorious time and the new print room is well under way. And it is being done at one-sixth of the cost a contractor would have charged, had it not been for the loving help of our members. Thank God for the construction crew that God has given us. We have two fine construction engineers, and many enthusiastic members who love to work together. Saturday there was a call to a work party in the new print room, and I wondered how our newest member would survive it. I looked down into the excavation hole, and there he was, working happily. And here he is, this morning, looking just as happy. He survived it and he's here this morning. The joy of working together, is from God. It's fun. The good humor and loving comradeship are priceless. That's what this church is all about: God working in us and meeting every need. And to have this wonderful crew of workers who are able to do the building! It's keeping it within the church, done by loving hearts who want to serve God and see things prosper in His right way. We all help to maintain this church. It is our home. It belongs to every one of us, and we love it. We have such inspired times, and many happy get-togethers when God directs.

The mail load is heavy. We've rented a post office box to speed up the mail delivery. Applications to join the church are coming in at a steady pace.

When we needed spiritually inspired readers, God gave them to us. We needed musicians, and God supplied them, and an extra blessing is that the musicians are members of our church. We're not having to look outside of our membership. God has provided them right here, and the music is inspired and healing.

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Every time error assails us, the first thing we have to remember is that Satan is always a liar. And the second thing to remember is, with every attack, we get stronger. Nothing like it to stiffen the backbone, and to make us more loving, and stronger in God's service; refusing to be disturbed, or discouraged by error's attempts to deceive us.

This morning I woke up and felt a sense of heaviness, remembering an ugly picture that had been presented to us yesterday. I recognized that this lie was appearing at the door of my thought. It was not outside of my thinking, and it had no power except to suggest. What I did about it mentally would be the law to the situation. So I reasoned, first: I refuse to accept an evil picture. Second: Since I know that God is my Mind, and the Mind of everyone, there couldn't be an individual who would wish to cause harm to his fellow man. Impossible! The error left at once and never again presented itself. It had appeared at the door of my thought, seeking to find acceptance, and that's where I needed to reject it, vigorously. That's where error is always rendered powerless, when we refuse to let our Christly thinking be interfered with.

Our mission is to heal, and we heal through Love. If we're resenting anything, we can't love. It is impossible to love and hate at the same time. Hate absolutely stops healing.

I was greatly helped by the new Sunday Sermons pamphlet #3, especially the articles on Animal Magnetism and the Ninety-first Psalm. God gave us those articles. There's nothing personal about them. Everything that comes forth from this church is the impersonal truth. The splendid reading we heard this morning was inspired! The Lesson was inspired! Everything about this service

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has been so inspired! Thank God we're free to express the joy that comes from standing with God and never backing down before error, but instead, seeing its nothingness, and refusing to give it life.

The first hymn on love and unity was beautiful. It exemplifies the working together that this church is all about.

The Lord's Prayer was said by the congregation with such strong conviction. How wonderful! If you believe it, put your heart into saying it.

Getting to the Lesson: The Bible says, "Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning." Dear Father, as I awaken, let me hear Your voice, and no other. God's lovingkindness is the only voice we will hear, as we vigorously claim the right to do so.

The second Bible statement, "Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk." Dear Father, order my day. Show me how to walk through this day with You, doing exactly as You direct me. How glorious! A God-ordered day, every detail of it established, directed, and blessed by God.

The third Bible statement, "Teach me to do Thy will." Dear God, don't let human will or mortal mind take me from the path that You have ordered. Let me be steady and faithful in Your service, always listening to Your voice.

God's power works in every situation. Can we doubt Him? Don't be passive. When I want to say, "Hallelujah," I say it. And I believe it, and keep on saying it. That's what keeps the joy that is an essential part of spiritual power. And that's what we want to be sure we continue to do. We're doing a tremendous work, with Christian Science healing, publishing, and building. We must be sure we keep the joy in it, and never lose it. Remember, Satan will

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try to tempt you to lose your joy, but the heck with what Satan says! Don't listen! We've chosen not to listen to anything but God, and He tells us that we're His perfect, joyous, harmonious children. That's the Truth. Let's stand with it, and live it.

Let's go back to the Bible. What I found is very interesting. Moses had been forty days on the mount talking to God. And when he came down, he found the Children of Israel had gone back to idol-worshipping. They had taken their earrings, and their jewelry and made a molten calf, and were worshipping this idol rather than worshipping the one God. The people had fallen into this evil while Moses was on the mountain communing with God, and being instructed by Him. God disapproved this activity, and He said, "This is a stiff-necked and stubborn people." And He said to Moses, "I will destroy them." Aaron, Moses' brother, who had been part of the idol-worship, tried to excuse himself saying, that because he was the priest, he had to do the people's bidding. He tried to blame the people, claiming that it was someone else's fault. That's one of the principal ways that error works, to cause us to blame someone else, instead of saying, "Well, O.K., I goofed. Now I'll correct it, and do what I should, but I'm not going to blame it on anyone else. If this is my experience, I'd better heal it right here."

So Moses came back down from the mount, and in the middle of all the din and idol-worshipping, said in a loud voice, "Who is on the Lord's side?" Now, Aaron was timidly compliant. He'd given in to the wishes of the people, and didn't stand for anything. But Moses was completely loyal to the Lord his God, fearless, and ready to stand alone, if need be, on the Lord's side. He was impulsive, and yet he was wholly unselfed, and that's why God

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chose him, because he didn't back down. He was a leader, and a leader leads! Aaron wasn't. He was compliant. He fell down before the attack of error.

The people were then told by God: "Consecrate yourselves, the claims of kinship must yield to God and duty." And this means, if you have family members trying to hold you back or pull you down into the dream of life in matter, the Bible says, No! Obey God. Don't yield to the claims of kinship that would take you away from Him, but obey God. And if you do this, you will lift and heal your brother; lifting him, because you are standing strong with God.

Continuing with the Bible: Moses then talked with God face to face saying, "Show me Thy glory." And God said, "While I pass by you, and you will see My glory, I will put you in a cleft of the rock (to protect you), and will cover you with My hand while I pass by." This was necessary because God's light was so bright, and His power so great, that if Moses had been in its direct path, he would have been destroyed. And God said, "And thou shalt see My back parts, but My face shall not be seen." This meant, you shall not see the full manifestation of the divine radiance, because you are not ready for it, but you're going to see its afterglow. Isn't that wonderful? That's what God meant, "You won't see the full radiance, Moses, because you're not ready for it. But you are faithful, and I love you. You're walking in My path, even though with bleeding footsteps at times, and you have a right to see My afterglow, a faint reflection of My glory."

Later in history, when Jesus was transfigured, Peter wanted to make three tabernacles or altars. This again, was worshipping something other than the one God. Jesus wouldn't allow it. It was materialistic worship. Today

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it's the same thing. The material worship is of possessions, family, intellect, sensualism, drugs, materia medica, etc. Error repeats itself because it has nothing new to say. And through repetition, it hopes to hypnotize mankind. But it can't be done! Christian Science, as Mary Baker Eddy gave it, is breaking the hypnotic spell that would paralyze man and keep him in the stupor of idolatry.

The Lesson used one word several times, and I want to speak briefly about it. Reflect. Man reflects God. The universe reflects Him. Now, what does it mean? Reflection does not mean two. Reflection means one. If God is All, and if we accept that fact that He is All, then reflection means, God's allness reflecting out as you. You're not separate from God, you are reflected. You are a part of God. You are not God, but you can't possibly be anything unlike this perfect God. Mrs. Eddy says, "As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light one with the sun, even so God and man, Father and son, are one in being." (Message for '02, p. 12)

So, don't think of reflection as God here and me there. It's God reflecting me, and it's all one. It can't be transmitted. It is. Remember who you are. That's what this radiant light of Soul is all about, God reflecting Himself out as you, His children, without one single quality unlike Him, holy, perfect, strong, joyous, pure. That is the Truth of being.

If you obey God's commands, everything about you will bloom.

Doris White Evans

Do not let anything disturb your peace, for it is that peace which is the presence of God.

Bicknell Young

Common Consent and Customary Belief

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church
Sunday, March 27, 1988

The solo this morning, which was sung with such love and reverence, would lift the spirit of heaviness from any heart. If you came here today with a problem that seemed insurmountable, right at this moment, God is caring for you. Accept His care. Be peaceful in knowing that His law of Love is working. His tender, lovingkindness encircles you.

The tapes of our services go out to many people. One woman, on receiving her first tape, said she wanted to get on the next plane and come here. She had been unaware of the existence of our church, was thrilled to know about it, and wanted to see it in action. Our tapes rouse people, because the spirit of Love comes forth from them, the spirit of Love, which you all are living.

We had a letter this week from a man in San Diego who said, that when he first heard about our church, he was upset. He wondered, "How can they do what they are doing?" Then he prayed and turned it over to God. His thought changed and he sent for a copy of our inspiring magazine 'Healing Thoughts.' When he wrote to us this week, it was to say, "I just want you to know how my thought has turned around, and how I support what you're doing. I'd like to have a subscription to your Quarterly and 'Healing Thoughts' magazine as well."

This is happening everywhere. Whenever we send out literature to a new person, it is shared with friends, and the Truth it contains, spreads. People pass it on to those they love. God directs the way it's shared. As a result, the subscription rate is growing rapidly.

Our magazine 'Healing Thoughts' started in a humble way, with a very small circulation. In working for its

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prosperity, we held to Mrs. Eddy's statement in *Science and Health*, page 463, "Its beginning will be meek, its growth sturdy, and its maturity undecaying." The beginning, in May 1986, was very meek. It was only ten small pages, filled with love for God. The growth has been sturdy. Much steadfastness has been required of church members, and also great selflessness. We've put it all in the hands of God, and are trusting Him to prosper it. The results have been wonderful.

The Lesson today on Reality tells the story of Jesus and the loaves and fishes. There was a legitimate need for food for a large crowd who had come to hear the Master speak. Jesus, who trusted God for everything, provided abundant food for that multitude. The story is a wonderful proof of the availability of infinite supply. After this wondrous event, Jesus entered into a ship with the disciples to go to another place, and the disciples carelessly forgot to take bread.

I thought a lot about that. I looked it up in a couple of Bible commentaries, and they didn't say a thing. And then I realized that many of those Bible commentaries were written by the good old clergymen of the church of England. And they were written to the best of their ability, with great sincerity. But that wasn't the interpretation that God wants us to have in this enlightened age. As workers in God's vineyard we are entitled to know what this story means spiritually. As I read the Lesson again, this is what came: The disciples became complacent and forgot to take bread. When they were without food in the ship, Jesus warned them to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod." He read their thoughts and knew that they had let their thinking drop to a material level, and were leaning on his demonstration, thinking, "If he can feed five thousand, we don't have to worry about taking

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bread on the ship. He'll give us some when we need it. He'll do it all for us."

Jesus fed the multitude, to illustrate a divine law, and he hoped that the disciples' eyes would be opened sufficiently to see it. They evidently failed to understand Jesus' motive, and the lesson he taught. They fell into the trap of animal magnetism, and became leaners and takers. Thus he rebuked them severely.

Mortal mind is always ungrateful. There was a man who was raised from the dead, in this church, and was reformed for a time. It was a serious error that brought him to death's door in the first place. Later he went off, and forgot what healed him. At a later date, in much worse circumstances, he was forced to find God. This time it was not quick, as he needed to prove his sincerity.

Ten lepers came to Jesus and were healed. Nine went off ungrateful, and promptly forgot what healed them. The leaven of the Pharisees and Herod is ingratitude. This induces a dullness of vision that neither sees nor remembers the grand things that God has done.

To get back to the Lesson: When the ship carrying Jesus and the disciples got to the land where it was going, they found a blind man crying out for help. It took Jesus two treatments to heal him. Why? What was Jesus dealing with? He was dealing with mortal mind, which was fast asleep, and which did not see the Christ. He had previously said, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me." He had told the disciples and the people who he was. And yet they did not see it.

The blind man needed faith, and it's a helpful thing for all of us to have. So Jesus gave him a treatment. And that treatment improved him, and enlarged his faith so he could see that there was a tremendous healing power working. Jesus gave him a second treatment. And with his

faith strengthened, he received his sight.

Jesus broke every so-called material law. His mission was to remove the blinders of mortal mind so that humanity could see the glorious things that God has done. That was also Mrs. Eddy's mission: To remove the blindfolds from the eyes of humanity. Her textbook *Science and Health* includes everything needful to remove those blindfolds. She says in *Science and Health*, "By universal consent, mortal belief has constituted itself a law to bind mortals to sin, sickness and death." And then she adds, "This customary belief is misnamed material law." Universal consent and customary belief are two stages of error. First, one has to consent to evil. Universal consent means consenting to the belief that there can be sin, or disease, or death. All of this has to be accepted, and believed, with the negative attitude that there isn't much we can do about it. When it has been consented to in this way, it becomes a "customary belief." It becomes the custom, commonly accepted by humankind. People then say, "These things are going on and they are real. Perhaps we can pray and make a small dent in them, but they are too powerful to annihilate." This is what Jesus came to disprove. He broke every so-called material law. He would not consent to customary belief. He broke every afflictive custom! Scourged them out of the temple! Refused to go along with the leaven of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and Herod.

In the textbook, *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy says, "Ideas are born of Spirit." (p. 274) Every right idea that has come to us has been born of God. Since these right ideas have been born of God, they are permanent, and will bless. They can only do us good.

Our mission is expanding all the time. We are now seeing what a right idea the new print room is, because

Common Consent and Customary Belief

there is a fast-growing need for more space in which to publish. There's so much good going on! And we need that large and lovely space that is being brought into being. It's costing us a fraction of what it might, because there are those of you who are loving enough, and willing, to give your Saturdays to come, and work for Love's church, and be blessed.

There's a place and work for everyone in this church. Each one has a niche. Each one is doing something valuable to serve God. In proportion to our service, do we prosper. When our hearts are in it, and we're doing all we can, we prosper in every way. If we're dragging our heels, or falling for the old error of "I'm not good enough to do it," we bind ourselves. If we consent to this lie, it then becomes a customary belief. Let's not have any customary beliefs. There's no law but God's law of perfection. There's no power but God's power. Right here, right now, God is All. Right here, right now, perfection is the only law. We need accept nothing else, because nothing else is real.

Love

In all things I must do today,
Love, lead me,
Lead me in Thy blessed way.
Embrace my every thought and deed,
With tender messages of love,
Meeting every human need.
Open my eyes that I might see,
All the good You have for me,
The good that overflows to share,
With all God's children —
Everywhere!

Art Anker

What Is an Independent Christian Science Church and How Does It Work?

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church
February 1989

An independent Christian Science church is one that turns for guidance to Almighty God. Our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, states in the Manual, "In Christian Science each branch church shall be distinctly democratic in its government, and no individual, and no other church shall interfere with its affairs."

An independent Christian Science church appears when a group of individuals loves Mrs. Eddy's revelation sufficiently to stand with God, and take direction only from Him.

After many years of unthinking obedience to a demanding Boston hierarchy, and with membership falling off, the Plainfield Church was required by God to "come out from among them and be separate."

In the beginning, people visiting our Reading Room asked, "What will you do without the Boston literature?" We couldn't answer the question, but we trusted God to lead us.

Soon we received wonderful articles and books from loving friends who were inspired by God to share them with us. We thank God for the "unauthorized literature," that we have been privileged to have in the last thirteen years, and for the tremendous growth it has brought to all of us; to be able to read these inspired writings, study them, and live them. It is God's blessing and God's benediction upon this church, and it is the source of much of the strength that is present here.

The wonderful writings that we've been given, elucidate the teachings of Christian Science, and clarify much

What Is an Independent Christian Science Church?

that has been written in the Bible. Through the love and appreciation these writers have for our dear Leader, Mrs. Eddy, things are made clearer than we have ever seen them before.

Everything is according to God's plan. It was God's plan that we be independent. It was God's plan that we have these wonderful articles and books to study and learn from. A loving God did not leave us comfortless without proper literature. As a result of the spiritual growth of the members, we were soon able to publish our own literature.

The separation from a dictatorial hierarchy, and the ensuing attacks upon this church, caused the members to draw together in Christly love. Our unity is our safety. Each member is made an active, valued part of the church. Criticism and gossip are unheard of. When a job needs to be done, seven or eight people are ready to do it.

In short, an independent church is a joyous adventure. It demands absolute reliance upon God. It works, because it is based on Love, "the heart and soul of Christian Science."

Not one member has perished as a result of this stand. We are all healthier, wealthier, and happier than ever before in our lives. The church is prospering in every way. Each month new members are added. Our children are happy and safe, and they do not leave Christian Science. Most of all, we have the tremendous satisfaction of knowing that we are keeping Christian Science alive for all mankind.

Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it.

Ecclesiastes

The Healing of Plainfield

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

May 1989

Back in 1975, when our trials with the Boston organization had just begun, it came clearly to us that it was time (for those of us who really wanted to serve God and help mankind) to heal the city of Plainfield.

The city was on a downswing, in the wake of riots that took place in the sixties. Real estate values had dropped. Many of the beautiful old Victorian homes were falling into disrepair. The business district was suffering, and the media was downgrading Plainfield, which had been a highly thought of city.

This gave us plenty to do and kept our own fires of love burning at a time when we were being persecuted by Boston. One of the first results of this prayerful work was very much like what was occurring in our church at that time. A solid core of workers remained faithful to the Plainfield Church and Mary Baker Eddy's pure Christian Science, while two-thirds of the congregation fled out of fear or blind obedience to the Boston hierarchy. At the same time, a solid core of pro-Plainfielders developed in the community. These were people who really loved the city, and were willing to stand up and say so, and do something for it. Those who did not appreciate Plainfield's beauty, good stock, and great potential, left the city.

Soon neighborhood block associations were forming, with emphasis on "Restoring Victorian Plainfield." Bumper stickers began to appear on cars saying, "We Love Plainfield." A great interest in Plainfield's grand history sprang up in the community, and many photographs and slide shows circulated, showing what Plainfield looked like in her best days.

We learned that Plainfield had at one time been a re-

The Healing of Plainfield

sort area, with fine hotels and beautiful summer homes. When these homes were furnished with central heating, it later became the "bedroom community of Wall Street," a short commute from New York City.

Walking tours became fashionable in Plainfield, and the community began to rediscover the exquisite beauty of the "Queen City," as it was once called. Many a Sunday found Plainfielders browsing through homes opened to them by other members of the community. A tour leader, well-versed in architectural styles, would narrate. How delightful it was to find so many treasures right here in Plainfield: Stained glass windows, spiral staircases, handsome wooden moldings, decorative ceilings, splendid fireplaces, butler's pantries, and much more!

Our own church members, working together on weekends and spare evenings, restored four stately old homes to their original beauty. This took place from 1976 through 1984. These lovely houses have become home to the many people who have moved here to serve Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science. Each apartment is unique and beautiful. There is a peace in the homes that visitors often remark on.

Plainfield's restoration had begun. People began investing in the city once again. Homes that were in shambles could once again be called "painted ladies" as they shone forth in tasteful tri-color elegance. Landscaping was done, old porches restored. Real estate values went up, and people began moving back into the city.

Articles appeared in national home magazines featuring the lovely interiors of the Victorian homes. Leading newspapers carried stories and photographs about the walking tours.

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Renovations were made in major downtown areas, giving new charm to the main streets. The train station was restored. An X-rated movie theater was shut down. The YWCA, which was going to close, began to flourish.

We know that this is just the beginning. This is the city where Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science is lived, loved and demonstrated consistently. The power of scientific prayer is winning a great victory.

There is no limitation to the possibilities of accomplishment for each one, when God governs his thinking.

Bicknell Young

When problems are seen as opportunities for spiritual growth, we can face them with confidence, knowing that the hand of God is upon us.

Be sure that God guides your steps, and then take them quickly, with confidence and power.

The heartfelt desire to know and do the will of God is the greatest work that man can ever aspire to.

Doris White Evans

Love has a plan and purpose for everyone to fulfill and none can escape it, or fail to perform the will of God.

Mary Baker Eddy

Conversation with an Out-of-Town Church

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church
May 1989

Recently an out-of-town church contacted the Plainfield Christian Science Church with several questions about independence. We spoke by amplified telephone to the entire out-of-town membership, which was able to direct questions from the floor via a P.A. system installed for this purpose in their church.

The out-of-town church was most interested to hear that our Order of Services is in accordance with Mrs. Eddy's 1910 Manual (the 88th Edition), which grants branch churches complete autonomy in their Order of Services. This is the last legal Manual.

The church members were informed that since becoming independent, the Plainfield Church is in superb financial condition. We no longer send donations to Boston four times a year or help maintain the nursing service or the office of Committee on Publication (a useless and expensive nonentity), which saves us over \$25,000 a year.

They were told that we now publish our own Lesson Sermon Quarterly, and that we have a large group of subscribers to our Lesson Sermons from all over the world. For the past three years we have also been publishing our quarterly magazine, 'Healing Thoughts,' which is also mailed all over the world. These two publications are part of a very active, thriving printing operation, which is making pure, healing Christian Science literature available to everyone. The group was told that we neither sell nor endorse Robert Peel's books on Mrs. Eddy.

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One question concerned class instruction, and we replied that regular classes are available to our members, and that they are given by God-appointed teachers from within our own church. A proof of the teaching's efficacy is the listing of four new practitioners.

One of the group's concerns was whether their church edifice could be taken away from them, and they were assured that the building was legally their property, and that no outside organization could lay any claim to it. This fact was established during our law case.

They were also interested to learn about our large and growing list of practitioners.

The Plainfield Church has mailed this interested, out-of-town church several of our publications, including 'Healing Thoughts' and our Quarterly, and they have received them with great enthusiasm.

We can rejoice that there is a law of God which will release us from evil's unreal bondage and bring us into the glorious kingdom of God.

Trusting God isn't a passive, laid-back resignation, nor is it lukewarm wishful thinking. It is alert, lively, and always expectant of good.

Doris White Evans

This is God's world, and He is with every one of us, tenderly saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

Dora M. Mayo

Church Progress

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church

August 1989

Early in 1986 God gave us a startling idea. It was to publish a little magazine that would inspire and help others. We had had so much wonderful (unauthorized) Christian Science literature come our way, and we had been so helped by it, that we were glad to share it with the dear hearts that would be blessed by it.

At that time we were deeply involved in the law case instituted by Boston. Our winning this case, freed the name Christian Science from ecclesiastical control, so that anyone who followed the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy could form a Christian Science church, independent of the Boston organization.

The idea to publish a periodical was overwhelming, but we had been listening carefully to God, and obeying Him for many years, so we knew that He would never require anything that we could not certainly fulfill.

We realized that since this was God's idea, He would give us a name for the magazine. And very shortly, the name 'Healing Thoughts' was submitted by a member. It seemed so fresh and appropriate. After much quiet listening and sincere prayer, the first issue of 'Healing Thoughts' appeared in May 1986. It measured 4 inches by 6 3/4 inches and had a simple light blue cover. It contained ten pages of heartfelt love for God and man. The response to it was wonderful and it was decided to publish four times a year.

Our printing equipment at that time was the most simple type of duplicating machinery, which was housed in a small room off the Sunday School. Loving, eager workers gave unstintingly of their time to make the little publication perfect.

As we continued to publish, and Love's idea expand-

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ed, the magazine grew. New departments were added, and testimonies of recent healing appeared. The August 1986 issue was thirty-two pages. November 1986 was forty-five pages. February 1987 was fifty pages. Subscriptions grew and finally in February 1988 we progressed to the format that we now use.

It was then quite apparent that our tiny print room had been completely outgrown, and so the ever growing band of faithful workers undertook to excavate beneath our large foyer, and to build a new and beautiful print room. It took four months of hard, but joyous labor. The room measures thirty feet by sixty feet. The walls are a soft cream color and the floor is covered with a light blue-gray commercial carpet. On the walls, there are pictures of the step-by-step construction of our church edifice in 1925, beautifully framed in brass. The atmosphere of the print room is one of peace and love. The members feel privileged to work in it. They put their hearts into their work, and it is reflected in the perfect condition of the magazine.

Those who write the articles and testimonies are living the precepts of Mrs. Eddy's Science, and it shows in what they contribute. Those who find the inspired quotes from our Leader, excerpts from the First Edition of Science and Health, and Gems, pray consecratedly that these will bless all who read them. We have a quiet time on Monday nights in our church Sunday School (Library) where the members find inspirational material for our magazine.

In praying for 'Healing Thoughts' we have used Mrs. Eddy's statement in Science and Health, page 463, "Its beginning will be meek, its growth sturdy, and its maturity undecaying."

Church Progress

Our Church has prospered and grown as a result of this work. New members are added every month, and they are consecrated Christian Scientists, whose love for God and our Leader's revelation is active and sincere.

Thank you all for the love and support you have given this holy endeavor. We are grateful for every one of you.

The future, as well as the present, is in the hands of God.

Amanda Colbath

The great purpose the Lord has for you, cannot be thwarted.

Peter V. Ross

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3: 5

Take one step at a time. With love in your heart, do the best you can.

If we obey God and continue in His word, our prayers will have power.

Doris White Evans

I have taken you up into the Mount, and showed you the Promised Land, but you will have to walk every step of the way to get there.

Mary Baker Eddy

God's Good Work

Doris White Evans

A Sermon Given in the Plainfield Church
November 1989

There is a newsletter that's sent out by a sincere Christian Scientist. The most recent issue reported that in the last thirty months, ninety-six Christian Science churches have closed, six of them in New Jersey. This newsletter has caused a terrific stir among Christian Scientists who have been unaware of what is going on with their movement.

When Plainfield Church first became independent, much was directed at us that was unloving. Slandorous untruths were circulated about us that were deeply hurtful. But we did not dignify this error by responding to it. We knew better.

It is a scientific fact that in the field of electricity, it's necessary to have a positive and a negative charge to complete a circuit. In the unreal illusion called animal magnetism, you must entertain a negative thought for evil to work. Negative thoughts have been ruled out of our church. Love is the law. And that's why the attempts made to destroy us, failed, because we kept on loving, healing, and progressing. We refused to complete error's circuit by hating, and evil defeated itself, as evil always will when it is not responded to.

A wise worker once said, "If there's nothing negative in us, error simply can't find us." It doesn't matter what anybody thinks or says. If we love, and keep on doing right, we prosper. Error destroys itself.

During the time that we were coming through this wilderness experience, I talked to a prominent Christian Scientist who has been very active in the movement. He told me that he had talked in vain to the Boston Directors, trying to get them to change their ways. When they wouldn't do so, he brought things out in the open with a

God's Good Work

letter to the Field, and his letters have had a tremendous effect. One day, he said, "You know, God chose me to blow the trumpet. And he chose you to establish the Church." And that's what has happened. We have established the Church, the pure Church of Christ, Scientist. People are coming from all over the world to join us. People are writing to us every day, saying, "We didn't even know you existed. We're so grateful to have found you. We read a copy of your magazine and we love it. Thank God for what you are doing. How can we join in?"

Love is what has done it. Anyone who has read our magazine knows that there is not one word of rancor anywhere in it. We understand that anything less than love is dangerous, because if it isn't love, it's hate. And hate is like a large sink that attracts all kinds of error into it. Therefore, it's wise to keep loving, and keep our thoughts away from the sink of error.

We're so very grateful for this Christian Science church. Error may occasionally tempt us with the suggestion, "We are praying, and watching, and working hard. But does it really make a difference?" It certainly does! As Mrs. Eddy once said, "If this work is not done, the world will go into another nineteen hundred years of darkness." The work is being done. Mrs. Eddy's revelation will not be lost. God won't allow it. As long as we have the faithful hearts who fill our church edifice, and those all over the world who have joined, and are working, and praying with us, Mrs. Eddy's pure Science will continue to progress.

One of our members said recently, "It's so important that we know about Mrs. Eddy's life, because once you do, you understand what Christian Science really is." Christian Science is not a casual, social Sunday religion. It's the

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living, palpitating presence of Divine Love. It is a life of active service to God, and it's made up of sincere and loving people who have stood together, through trial and persecution, and won great victories; people who make sure that their love never grows cold. It's a strict rule around here, that the love quotient stay high.

The other day a minister stated a most helpful thought. And he kept repeating it, "Name it and claim it." It was most impressive. So often we name the good, but then we don't claim it for ourselves. We must be sure that we carry through. Name it and claim it. God wants you to have it. God loves you. He has blessed you, and He will continue to do so.

Keep up your good work, because it's God's good work. Those who are publishing, those who watch day and night, all who are doing the mental work for this worldwide movement, are blessed of God. We are so grateful for every one of you.

The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it.

Emerson

You have not to fight, not to struggle, but only to know.

Mary Baker Eddy

Strength always comes to the hand that serves.

ARTICLES

The Beatitudes

Doris White Evans

November 1987

The Beatitudes, given by Jesus, are a chart which leads us to God.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Blessed are the humble, those who are willing to listen. To illustrate: a man went to Italy. He had been told that there was a great statue there, and it was very beautiful. He looked at it, studied it, and thought, "This doesn't look like much. I can't see where it's beautiful at all." Finally, a little boy came up to him and said, "Sir, if you step forward, kneel down, and look up, you will see." So the man stepped forward (which means, he took the first step), he kneeled down (he was humble), and then he looked up into the most beautiful face he had ever seen! But he had to do it in the right way, so that he could appreciate the beautiful work of art that was before him. Blessed are those who are humble. This is the first step in finding God.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Blessed are those who recognize their sins and their failings, and repent them. Not glibly saying, "Everything is lovely," when it isn't. But going to God in their deepest hearts and saying, "Father, if I have disobeyed You, show me what I should do now." And then, be receptive! We all have the same opportunity to listen to God. This is the second step forward in spiritual growth.

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." When you begin to get a slight grasp on Science, the next thing you may do, if you're not careful, is to start stomping on your brother. You find fault and criticize, telling him that he hasn't done this or that right. You know what this does? It absolutely stops your growth, and it breaks your brother's heart. You can do great damage in

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that way. So don't get a little inspiration, and let error cause you to think, "How great I am," and begin to step on others. Instead, recognize how great God is, and keep your head held low in humility, seeking to bless, not preach at your brother.

A friend told me that when she found Christian Science she was most enthusiastic. Her husband's relatives were Christian Scientists who lived in California. She went to visit them, and she said to me later, "I shudder at what I did. I was a new broom sweeping clean. I told them they were doing everything wrong. I didn't even know what I was talking about. I must have been obnoxious!" When I met her, she was wonderful. She wasn't the least bit obnoxious. But she'd learned her lesson, and never repeated the mistake.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." When you've come through the first three steps, and really begin to want the truth in your heart, Love opens the way. As you can see, there are several things that need to be done before it becomes your heart's desire. And if it is your heart's desire, you can't be stopped. But you have to go through the first three steps, to discard the trash of human thinking, and rise into the glory of Godly thinking.

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Oh, as you progress become more kind, more loving, more caring. That's what we're learning here. There's no way, but through love and caring, to spread the Word of God.

My mother and father practiced Christian Science in a large New York church. In the beginning, when I was a child, I saw great caring in the church. And slowly as time passed, that began to disappear. As it did, that great

The Beatitudes

church diminished. It was a great and beautiful church. It diminished until it closed. It had four hundred children in its Sunday School when I was there. It closed in 1972. And when it did, no one was left. The members forgot to care and they lost their church. Keep mercy in your hearts. Don't judge. Stay kind. Stay loving. Don't gossip. Don't enter into unkind conversation about anyone, in anyway. This is the worst stumbling block there can be, criticizing and judging your brother. We've seen the mistakes that can be made; and we're going to be wise enough to learn and profit from them, and know, that in reality, those mistakes were no part of any child of God, or of any church anywhere.

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Jesus was speaking from his own experience. Blessed are those who hold nothing back from God. This can't be discussed with others. It's something between you and God and must work within your heart. It can't work if you're discussing it with others. It can only work in the silence of a heart earnestly communing with God. Blessed are those who hold nothing back, who have a pure heart and say, "God, here I am. I love You, and I will obey You always."

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." When the first six Beatitudes have been put into practice, one can't help bringing peace to everyone he deals with.

And then comes the next step, and Jesus knew it so well, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." We had reviling and persecution for ten years; but we kept on loving, and doing right. We kept on obeying God. Every move we made was made with God. And these moves resulted in the unprecedented

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winning of a law case in a way that has never been done before, because no one had won a case against the Boston hierarchy. And it was done with love. It was done for the freedom of every Christian Scientist.

And finally, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." And so, let us rejoice. The battle always has been the Lord's. He has fought for us. And Love has won! Thank you, God, for Your glorious Truth that always protects and cares for its own.

Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Jeremiah 31:3

An affirmative God wouldn't maroon man in a negative situation.

Trust God. Be patient. Declare faithfully that God's law is working, and then, let it work.

Let the past go. Give it to God. See the glory of the present moment.

Doris White Evans

If you but knew the sublimity of your hope, the grandeur of your outlook, the infinite capacities of your being, you would let error kill itself.

Mary Baker Eddy

Nothing can hold back the glorious things God has in store for those who love Him.

Doris White Evans

Choices

Doris White Evans

August 1988

We all make choices. Moment by moment, day by day, we make choices. We get up in the morning, and we choose to have either a happy day, or a miserable one.

If we start the day with God, and with the study of the Lesson Sermon, we are choosing peace and dominion. If we rush out, without prayer and study, unprepared to meet the world, we have chosen to be tossed about on the turbulent sea of error.

The Plainfield Lesson Sermons are always so fresh and healing. They never grow stale. We make the choice, deciding I'm going to read the Lesson this morning, before my day starts. And I'm going to listen to God while I read it. I'm not going to rush through it, and be robbed of the comforting, healing message God has prepared for me. I'm going to read it quietly, and hear what God has to say to me. I will make this choice actively, to commune with my Maker, first thing in the morning.

As the day goes on, perhaps we're confronted with someone who seems to be a difficult mortal. We have to make a choice. We can get mad and blow our top, breaking our connection with God, and thereby becoming mentally unstable and miserable. Or, we can handle the situation from the standpoint of dominion, refusing to be disturbed, and making sure that everything we say, and do, is principled and will bless. We make the choice. If the choice is for God, it is going to bring peace and blessing to everyone we deal with. If not, life can be chaotic and unrewarding.

As the day goes on, we may be confronted with business problems. We can dive in and become so mesmerized that we can't think about anything else, or we can say quickly, "God, I know that no problem can enter Your day. What is the answer? There wouldn't be a problem if the answer weren't already right here." We make the choice:

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Am I going to get wound up and be run around in circles by error, or am I going to turn to the Almighty God, who always has every answer, and who is ready to provide it at once?

Making choices requires discipline of thought. Sometimes people think they're going to get a real kick out of losing control, getting mad, or hating something. But that's such a bad choice because all it brings is sorrow and depression. And more than that, it brings evil happenings. Open yourself to that kind of error, and it's there waiting to rush in at you. However, turning to God, making the right choice, refusing to be disturbed, or angry, insures peace and well being. As our Leader says in Science and Health, "Man's moral mercury, rising or falling, registers his healing ability and fitness to teach." (p. 449) God has given us the ability to stay steady and unmoved before the unreal but sometimes aggressive claims of error. The world needs our clear, calm, Christly thinking now as it never has before.

Choices. Moment by moment, we make them. From the minute we open our eyes in the morning, until the time we retire at night, we make choices. Right choices bring abundance. They bring health and peace, the peace of God which passeth all understanding. It's so foolish to let error make our choices for us. We can make them with God and win! That's what Christian Science is all about, the freedom to make the right choices. In doing this, we are departing daily from error, and walking steadfastly into the kingdom of heaven. Choices. God has given us the power to make them. And thank God we can make them right. Hymn number 382 assures us of our ability to walk with God and make the right choices:

Take then the sacred rod;
Thou art not error's thrall;
Thou hast the gift of God —
Dominion over all.

Faith and Understanding

Doris White Evans

November 1988

An interesting experience came into our possession recently. It is most helpful to anyone starting out in the practice of Christian Science.

Many years ago a young man began to practice Christian Science, and many wonderful healings took place. On the basis of this success, he established an office in a large city. However, things didn't work out as he expected and the healing ceased.

At that time a good, old-time worker came to town. The young man made an appointment with him, and told the worker of his sad plight, wondering why, now that he had a better understanding of Science, he couldn't heal even a simple case.

The worker answered, "When you started to practice, you had a rare, active, living faith. What happened to that faith when you began to get understanding?" The young man said, "Why, you don't need faith when you have understanding." The worker said, "Oh, yes you do! You need one hundred percent of your faith. You have got to have faith in what you understand, and you've got to understand what you have faith in. Then nothing will stop you."

The young man accepted the counsel of the venerable worker and went on to become a much loved and respected worker in the Cause of Christian Science.

In his later years, seeing a great threat to Mrs. Eddy's revelation, he retired to spend all of his time handling the animal magnetism that was attempting to take over the Boston organization.

What Makes a Good Patient?

Doris White Evans

February 1989

What makes a good patient, a receptive patient, one who can be healed? I thought about this for many years as I practiced Christian Science.

When we obtained the First Edition of Science and Health, I discovered that our beloved Leader repeatedly mentions the words “personal sense.” As I pondered this, I began to realize that she was showing us what makes a good patient. A good patient is one who seeks to understand God. A good patient is one who knows that in working with a practitioner, he or she is not coming to a person for healing, but coming to a Christly office. A good patient is one who is willing to drop a personal sense of a selfhood apart from God, and put themselves, without reservation, in God’s hands. It’s one who is willing to release the past. One who has the humility to say, “I’ve tried to work this out myself and I haven’t quite made it. I’m grateful that God has provided a Christly office that can help me. I’m willing to accept the Bible verse which says, ‘he that cometh to God, must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.’ I believe that God is, and I know that it’s God who does the work. I can be receptive, and have a complete and thorough healing. A healing that doesn’t have to be dragged out, but is quick, complete and permanent.” The good patient drops a personal sense of himself, personal pride, and listens carefully to God. He has a willingness to get down to brass tacks, to get rid of whatever would stop progress, and go forward doing God’s work.

Thank God for all the strong pioneer hearts who have joined Plainfield, who have been willing to take a stand, putting aside personal sense with all its earth weights, to work for God. Let the winds of error rip! Let them blow! They have no power. The Lord God good omnipotent reigneth, now and forever.

August 1989

On page 134 of Science and Health Mrs. Eddy makes a statement that recently unfolded to me in a new light. "Denial of the possibility of Christian healing robs Christianity of the very element, which gave it divine force and its astonishing and unequalled success in the first century-"

I asked myself, how might one deny the possibility of Christian healing and thereby rob Christianity of its divine force and astonishing healing power? The answers came quickly. As we go about our daily activities, thoughts pass in and out of consciousness. If we are not alert, thoughts such as, "I've had this problem for some time, perhaps I'll have to live with it or, it may take a long time for a full recovery." "My business isn't doing well. It's obviously a down cycle. There's not much I can do about it." Or, "The world situation is so unstable, trouble can break out anywhere." Every one of the above suggestions are attempts by error to have us go along unthinkingly with its denial of the power of God.

Our Leader once told her household, "The work is not humdrum, dear ones, it is growth. It is repeating and defeating, repeating and defeating, repeating and defeating." There's such a need for us to stay active on God's side, and refuse to allow error to whisper suggestions of hopelessness and defeat in our ears.

When the devil suggested to Jesus that he throw himself down from the pinnacle, he refused to do so. The devil had no power. He could only hope that his spurious suggestion would cause Jesus to throw himself down. But, because Jesus knew his oneness with God, and couldn't be tempted, evil left him alone.

Sermons and Articles

As we know, and claim, our oneness with God, we will be alert to evil's suggestions. They will be an offense to us, and we will "rise in rebellion against them." (Science and Health, p. 391) The more faithful we are in doing this, the more discouraged evil will become, until it leaves us alone.

I was so grateful for a new understanding of the statement by Mrs. Eddy on denying the possibility of Christian healing. I realized how unwittingly one could have a conversation with the devil and not even know it. I resolved then and there, that if God had given me a clearer understanding of this statement that I had read so many times, I'd better use it and make sure I never became lethargic and denied what God can do through Christian Science.

It's wonderful how truths unfold when we are ready for them. God is ever waiting to reveal Himself, and as we are "willing and obedient," we shall eat the fruit of the land, the pure truths of Christian Science.

Awake from the suggestion that evil is real, to the fact that God, good, governs. The Lord God omnipotent reigneth and there is none else.

Doris White Evans

Opportunity is infinite and ever present.

Edward A. Kimball

If we have God on our side, what need we more?

Mary Baker Eddy

The Trial

Doris White Evans

November 1989

I often wondered why Mrs. Eddy included the trial in Science and Health.

The other day I felt impelled to go back to the trial and study it again. I was astonished to find what was hidden there, and how very important it is for us to understand it thoroughly.

The account starts with a man charged with having committed liver complaint. The patient feels ill, ruminates and his trial begins.

The patient ruminates. Instead of vigorously denying the lying suggestion of illness, he ruminates. To ruminate is to contemplate and rehearse a situation.

The patient has chosen to entertain a negative state of thought which allows the error to talk to him, and he thereby takes himself into the unreal court of error. In this court there is no record of a defending attorney. All of the testimony is against mortal man, by those who would seek to destroy him. Even materia medica, who was called to help him, finally turned against him and condemned him to death.

It became clear to me that the trial was placed in the textbook to show the ridiculous and fraudulent nature of error; that it never gives man a chance, and that to allow oneself to get into its clutches is supreme foolishness.

The Bible states that God has given man dominion over all things. This is the Truth of being. Error knows this. Therefore its only hope is to deceive and mislead man so that he voluntarily relinquishes his God-given dominion and control.

Anything worth having is worth fighting for. In Miscellaneous Writings Mrs. Eddy writes: "Be of good cheer; the warfare with one's self is grand; it gives one plenty of

Sermons and Articles

employment, and the divine Principle worketh with you—and obedience crowns persistent effort with everlasting victory.” (p. 118)

This warfare demands “bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (II Corinthians) As thought is controlled, and held firmly to the things of God, rumination becomes an impossibility. Error cannot fool the active worker, because he is so accustomed to the atmosphere of God, that the slightest approach of evil is obnoxious, and a call to arms.

Error can’t stand to be laughed at. The trial strips off error’s haughty pretensions and makes it a laughingstock. And man, strong, free and under God’s control, claims his dominion.

In referring to the truths given in later editions of Science and Health Mrs. Eddy said, “I have hidden it, hidden it, hidden it.” Thus the wonderful truths to be found in the trial await the sincere seeker for Truth who is ready to work diligently for the revelation it contains.

There must be a greater sense of conscious power. If you really accept the fact that there is only one Mind, and accept that Mind as your Mind, then it is with that Mind that you speak every moment. “To live so as to keep human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, the spiritual, and the eternal, is to individualize infinite power; and this is Christian Science.” This individualization of infinite power is your privilege as well as your necessity.

Herbert Eustace

The Lesson Sermon

Doris White Evans

February 1990

In the Manual of The Mother Church, Mary Baker Eddy states that the “prosperity of the Cause depends on the Lesson Sermon.”

Why? Well, first of all, it requires reading from the two greatest books ever written: The Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy.

It has been generally recognized by mankind that reading the Bible heals and saves. Christian Scientists know that through the study and application of the truths contained in Science and Health, they can move mountains. Combined in a course of daily study, these two books have a power beyond anything the human mind can visualize.

How do I study the Lesson? I do it first thing in the morning, before I undertake any other activity. In this way, my thought is open and receptive to Truth, not weighed down by the cares of the day. Before I begin my study, I pray that God will open my heart to receive the wonderful truths stated in the Lesson Sermon. I give myself enough time to thoughtfully ponder what I am reading, and listen carefully to God’s revealing.

As I finish my study, I write down a helpful thought from either the Bible or Science and Health, and refer to it during the day. In this way I keep the truths from the Lesson alive in my heart.

I’ve tried not doing the Lesson first thing in the morning, but I have found that nothing can take its place. If I don’t get to the Lesson, and put first things first, I feel dull and uninspired, and the day doesn’t have the brightness and power that this consecrated study brings.

Following this article is a copy of one of our Lesson Sermons. Read it. See if it doesn’t make a change in your life. It has electrified ours, made them vital and joyous, as

Sermons and Articles

our dear Leader intended them to be, when she listened to God, and provided this wonderful means for spiritual progress.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1989

SUBJECT— REALITY

GOLDEN TEXT: ISAIAH 65:17

"Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 52 :1, 6-10

1. Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city.
6. My people shall know My name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold, it is I.
7. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!
8. Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.
9. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted His people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem.
10. The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Lesson Sermon

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1989

SUBJECT— REALITY

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Matthew 3 :1-3, 5-8, 10-12 (to;)
2. Matthew 13 : 1-3 (*to 1st*),
24 (The)-30, 36-43
3. Revelation 1 : 1, 3
4. Revelation 21: 1 (I) (*to*); 9
5. Revelation 22 : 1, 6-10

Science and Health

1. 297 : 12
2. 300 : 13
3. 586 : 7 (*to*);
4. 466 : 26
5. 66 : 9 (Through), 30-1
6. 572 : 19-22
7. 573 : 5-9 *next page*
8. 574 : 16-3
9. 548 : 2-17

Contagion

Doris White Evans

May 1990

In *Miscellaneous Writings* Mrs. Eddy writes, "Whatever man sees, feels, or in any way takes cognizance of, must be caught through mind." (p. 228)

In dealing with people, we are often unaware that we are apt to take on their mental state if we do not protect our thought.

As an example: You enter a store and the salesperson is rude. If you are not alert, the peace of mind that you have worked so hard to gain, disappears, and you find yourself reacting to that salesperson with irritation. In this irritated state of mind you are a sitting duck for any form of evil that comes down the pike. And believe me, evil is waiting to come down the pike, if you are not alert.

The same situation can occur in a home. If one family member becomes disturbed and unhappy, the other members, if they don't guard their thinking, may find their peace being invaded, and finally destroyed, as the mesmerism takes over the home.

This also applies to business and those we deal with there.

Reaction is the bridge over which animal magnetism reaches us. A disturbed, irritated thought is a catchall for error's spurious suggestions.

What is the solution? The answer lies in the instant rejection of the aggressive suggestion. The Bible tells us to agree with our adversary quickly while we are in the way with him. Mrs. Eddy clarifies this in *Science and Health* by stating, "Suffer no claim of sin or of sickness to grow upon the thought. Dismiss it with an abiding conviction that it is illegitimate." (p. 390)

A wise worker once said, "Be so instant in Truth that error is always too late."

Contagion

At the present time the world is in a state of turmoil. Truth is overturning all that is untrue. Our job is to maintain our peace, undisturbed by error's self-destructive detonations.

Our Leader continues in the same article in Miscellaneous Writings, "A calm, Christian state of mind is a better preventive of contagion than a drug, or than any other possible sanative method; and the 'perfect Love' that 'casteth out fear' is a sure defense." (p. 229)

The loving God who watches over the sparrow, watches over mankind, caring for each one who comes to Him in

Doris White Evans

You have never left the abode of safety, the presence of God.

Peter V. Ross

We stand in the presence of God, in the presence of perfection, and that's all that is going on.

Everything that is good, is from God, and is forever.

Doris White Evans

Beneath, around, about, above, surrounding, are the healing currents of Truth and Love.

Mary Baker Eddy

Collectanea

Doris White Evans

August 1990

The book "Collectanea of Items By and About Mary Baker Eddy" is an invaluable help in gaining a working understanding of Christian Science, and of the life of its Founder.

Since there have been questions about this book, we feel it is time to share our knowledge of its authenticity.

In 1970, one of our church members was class taught by a Director of The Mother Church.

In 1972, a friend gave this student a copy of "Collectanea of Items By and About Mary Baker Eddy." He took it to his teacher and asked if it was authentic. The Director's answer was, that the book was legitimate and true, but that the Directors did not openly recommend it to students.

In view of the rapid decline of the Christian Science organization, it would seem extremely unwise to have banned a book that gave an accurate account of the words of its Founder.

Mary Baker Eddy is the Discoverer, Founder, and forever Leader of the Christian Science Movement. She inspired a great religious renaissance. At one point, a new Christian Science church was springing into being every few days. People flocked to Christian Science, and found that it healed them of their diseases, and gave them a new way of life.

The Plainfield Church loves and appreciates Mrs. Eddy. We are grateful for everything that she has written, and feel that no hierarchy should have the right to restrict the free circulation of her writings.

As a result of our study and appreciation of Collectanea, great growth has taken place among our members.

Collectanea

This growth, and its resultant spiritual activity has created an atmosphere that has drawn many people to our church. Our services are overflowing and new people join each month.

The membership prays that everyone who enters our church will be healed and blessed. This work has proved to be extremely effective. People are healed during our services. They tell their friends about it, and they, too, want to attend our services.

We cannot be too grateful for Mary Baker Eddy. She was chosen by God to do a great work, and she carried it through faithfully, and successfully. Her inspired words will stand forever.

Trust God. Trust is an active thing. It keeps on going forward.

Our work is to let our spiritual understanding of God, and our love for Him, shine out to the world, as a light that blesses and heals, reaching all mankind, everywhere.

No one is left out of God's blessing.

There is nothing that can resist the power of God's truth, trusted with all the heart.

Doris White Evans

Serving God

Doris White Evans

August 1990

The Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, is filled with healing truths. When we open it, we can expect to find exactly the right statement of truth to meet our need.

A member of this church recently stated that he could tell he was becoming dull, if he sat down to read *Science and Health* and the words didn't leap off the page. He stated a great truism.

The other day, while reading *Science and Health*, a sentence on page 492 leapt off the page. It stated, "Being is holiness, harmony, immortality."

The dictionary contains several interesting definitions of the words, holiness, harmony, and immortality.

Holiness: "Consecrated to God; untainted by evil or sin; deserving deep respect; sacred; set apart; dedicated to a holy purpose."

I thought about the membership of this church and how each one has consecrated his life to God. In doing this we have found peace and well-being beyond anything we had known before. Life is a joyous adventure. Each day provides fresh opportunities for doing good. It is a most satisfying way of life.

We have learned to disbelieve in evil or sin, and therefore be untainted by its lies. We keep ourselves untainted by declaring faithfully, I'm not going to believe anything evil about anyone. I'm going to love them, and thus give them a chance to be the wonderful child of the great God who loves them.

The definition of holiness continues, "deserving deep respect." Every one who has chosen to serve the Truth, deserves deep respect. Be sure that you respect your holiness. Respect who you are as God's child. And when you deal with your brother, respect his holiness. This will

Serving God

bring out the holiness within him, and help free him from the limitation and woe evil would try to put upon him.

The definition of holiness ends with, "sacred; set apart; dedicated to a holy purpose." Could there be any more sacred purpose than serving God, and saving Mary Baker Eddy's wonderful Science from disappearing off the face of the earth? Faithful commitment to God's service sets us apart from the troubles of the world. Serving God brings absolute safety.

Harmony is defined as, "a simultaneous sounding of two or more tones, satisfying the ear." Our voices ring out together in Love, as we walk with God. That's what harmony is. Unity, loving each other, keeping free from dissension. This has allowed our church to grow as Science did in the early days, when fine, dedicated students of Mrs. Eddy helped guide its course.

Immortality is defined as, "deathless; lasting fame; long remembered." The good you've done, and the good you continue to do, will stand and be long remembered.

There is no greater joy than standing faithfully in God's service. It has brought us freedom from sickness, sorrow, and poverty. The verse in the Bible, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," has been proven true here.

Mrs. Eddy states in *The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany*, "Deeds, not words, are the sound test of love; and the helpfulness of consistent and constant right thinking—intelligent thinking untainted by the emotionalism which is largely self-glorification—is a reasonable service which all Christian Scientists can render their Leader." (p. vii)

For this great privilege, we thank the good God who has brought us together for this holy mission.

Where Do We Stand?

Doris White Evans

November 1990

"One with God is a majority," is a familiar saying, and a powerful, effective truth.

In this time of turmoil and international chaos, man needs a place to go for strength and comfort. People who have never done so before, are turning to God as a last resort. Is the Christian Science Church ready to receive them? It seems not.

Due to a departure from the tenets of Christian Science as given by our revered Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, the Boston church is in deep trouble, with members departing in droves, and law suits for child abuse being brought against its members in many states of the Union. Churches are closing every day, and the members who are left, are often elderly, confused and without confidence or inspiration.

What is the answer? Mary Baker Eddy states in *Science and Health*, "The time for thinkers has come. Truth, independent of doctrines and time-honored systems, knocks at the portal of humanity. Contentment with the past and the cold conventionality of materialism are crumbling away. The only guarantee of obedience is a right apprehension of Him whom to know aright is Life eternal." (p. vii)

The time for thinkers has come. Independent thinkers.

The Plainfield Church, according to God's plan, has been independent since 1977. During that time of persecution, the members have drawn close to God and to each other. Through consecrated study and prayer, they have rid themselves of the "time-honored systems and cold conventionality of materialism" that our Leader de-

Where Do We Stand?

plored, and gained an understanding of God and of Christian Science that has enabled them to stand, while the Boston organization crumbles away.

The saddest sight, is once-full Boston churches, empty and closing. This could never have happened in Mrs. Eddy's time, but she clearly foresaw it, if the church was not obedient to its tenets.

There can be no other explanation for this devastating falloff, except failure to follow the Leader's God-given instructions and admonitions.

How has independence blessed us? It has forced each member to get his answers from God and through this, each one has gained strength and inspiration. We have no hierarchy that bans books, excommunicates loyal, loving workers, and creates an atmosphere of fear and distrust that gnaws at the very foundation of all that Mary Baker Eddy stood for so faithfully.

How can we save Christian Science? Mrs. Eddy has stated that, "The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love." (S&H p. 113) Love attracts and Love heals. We firmly feel that love, deprived of the joy of expressing itself freely, perishes.

The Plainfield Church, unhampered by ecclesiastical control, freely expresses its love to the community. Our Muppet band is well known and loved by all. It plays all over the city by request of the Mayor's office, the Fire and Police departments, the Recreation Commission and others. As a result of this, people have been drawn into the church who might never have dared come, had they not met the members at these public functions.

Also, our members are so enthusiastic about Christian Science and our church that they attract co-workers and neighbors to our door.

Sermons and Articles

When the newcomer attends church, he finds a hearty welcome from a loving membership, and hears an inspired, healing service. On Wednesday nights we have twenty-five to thirty convincing testimonies of recent healing. Our church is a place people want to return to, again and again, because comfort and healing are here. The services are packed with joyous members and attendants, and the church is continuing to grow rapidly.

We have five active practitioners who are healing the cases that come to them. We have a teacher, who teaches the Christian Science that Mrs. Eddy gave to the world. We write our own Lesson Sermons and publish 'Healing Thoughts' magazine. We tape our Sunday and Wednesday services. We also have tapes of the Sunday Sermons and Revelation classes. These tapes are distributed on a world-wide basis.

What has made this possible? Our obedience to the Manual, and a consecrated study of Science and Health, has enabled all this to be accomplished.

Where do we stand? With God and with Mrs. Eddy's pure Christian Science.

What wonderful freedom and joy come from realizing that we do not have to go along with anything that interferes with man's God-given right to freedom and wellbeing.

Doris White Evans

"Pleasure Is No Crime"

Doris White Evans

November 1990

A statement in common usage today is: "No pain, no gain." Although the Bible clearly states, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it," people have accepted the subtle suggestion that there must be evil included with any good that man may experience.

Accompanying this negative suggestion, comes the thought that pleasure is sinful and that indulging in certain pleasurable activities must necessarily bring an underlying sense of uneasiness. Thus man goes through his days carrying a heavy burden of guilt.

In *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mrs. Eddy states, "Pleasure is no crime except when it strengthens the influence of bad inclinations or lessens the activities of virtue." (p. 362)

The question to ask oneself about any pleasurable activity is: Does this bring me closer to God? Do I feel peaceful about engaging in it? Will this be a blessing to me and to others?

If these questions can be answered in the affirmative, and we feel a calm conviction that God approves the activity, we can go forward with joyous hearts to enjoy the spiritual refreshment and vitalizing joy that a God-inspired activity will bring.

Christian Science is a religion of joy. We've learned that joy and gratitude are the necessary ingredients in the recipe for healing. The workers in the Plainfield Christian Science Church are a joyous group of people.

The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany tells us, "The Christian Scientists at Mrs. Eddy's home are the happiest group on earth. Their faces shine with the reflection of light and love; their footsteps are not weary; their thoughts are upward; their way is onward, and their light shines. The world is better for this happy group of Christian Scientists." (My. p. 355)

The Heart's Desire

Doris White Evans

January 1991

Mrs. Eddy is said to have once told a class, "You may falsely think that something stands between you and your heart's desire, and so go through life here with that desire unfulfilled, but it is not so. Deny it, and you will find yourself free; and good will begin to flow to you and you will see clearly that nothing can stand between you and your own. Lean on God. Trust Him. Understand Him, and He will give you foresight, wisdom, and a capacity to execute His will, and show forth His name."

This reassuring message from our Leader mirrors her life. She mapped out the way for us, and proved every statement that she made. When faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, she forged ahead, refusing to give evil the power to interfere with her God-given mission. When her followers faltered and doubted, she trusted God, and turned to Him for courage and wisdom. Her success was unequalled. Through a better understanding of her life, we are enabled to live the Science of Christianity. She expected her followers to demonstrate this Science for mankind.

In these tumultuous times man needs a firm foundation on which to stand, so that he is not swept into the whirling currents of mortal mind. What better place to find this foundation than in Christian Science and in service to God.

In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy states, "The rays of infinite Truth, when gathered into the focus of ideas, bring light instantaneously, whereas a thousand years of human doctrines, hypotheses, and vague conjectures emit no such effulgence." (p. 504)

An important word in this statement is focus. How often a good idea comes to mind and we let it slip by.

The Heart's Desire

Thus, we never experience the benefit that the God-idea will bring. When told by God to go to Jerusalem, Jesus looked neither left nor right. His thought was focused on God. Mary Baker Eddy walked the same path. When attacked by error, she kept her thought focused on Truth and won victory upon victory.

The heart's desire of the Plainfield Church is to see Christian Science prosper and grow, and we've been willing to focus all of our thought upon that goal.

Each step has been taken with prayer. As we have put God first, trusted Him, and worked diligently to know His will, we have found stability, peace, and healing. Grateful Christian Scientists from all over the world subscribe to our publications. Our publishing department is prospering beyond anything we could have dreamed possible.

It has not always been easy to trust, when error was roaring on every side, but it's been worth the effort. As we have stood courageously for Truth, we have found God's love and goodness showered upon us.

Through trust in God we are finding the foresight, wisdom and capacity to continue to serve Him faithfully and to see Christian Science rise from the ashes, into its deserved position of respect and honor. Every obstacle that error has put in our path has been overcome. As sincere followers of Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science, we are rejoicing in the glory of God.

Come join us. We'd love to hear from you.

There is no greater joy than standing faithfully in God's service.

Doris White Evans

Refuse to Be Disturbed

Doris White Evans

January 1991

Why? Because there is no conceivable situation that is beyond God's law of adjustment.

The fact of God's allness rules out every false claim that evil could ever have continuity or power.

Whatever appears to be out of order has no law behind it. It is not part of God's plan, and can be corrected by the application of God's law of harmony.

Let no disturbing thought remain in consciousness. Refuse to be annoyed by fearful, nagging mental suggestions of sickness, poverty or trouble. Keep your mind filled with Godlike thoughts of health, harmony and happiness.

A woman had given her life to the service of God, in the Christian Science practice. She had healed the sick and raised the dead for many years. Multitudes were brought into Christian Science through her faithful work. She had heard many reports of severe irregularities in the Boston Christian Science organization, but she refused to give them credence, and loyally supported what she had always considered to be Mary Baker Eddy's church. Finally the Boston evil became so inflated that it attacked the worker and her church. This seemed a heartrending experience, as she had so revered those in authority. However, she was a disciplined metaphysician and turned wholeheartedly to her God and to her books. The days were often dark and the nights long, but she clung to all that she knew of Christian Science.

At that time a dear friend gave her a copy of the book Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps, by Gilbert Carpenter, Sr. This book gave her a picture of her beloved Leader that she had never seen before, and she drew close to Mrs. Eddy's life and experience. She was greatly comforted to know that the Leader had stood bravely through

Refuse to Be Disturbed

the worst storms of evil, and through God's power, had prevailed.

Mrs. Eddy's statement, "Undisturbed amid the jarring testimony of the material senses, Science, still enthroned, is unfolding to mortals the immutable, harmonious, divine Principle,—is unfolding Life and the universe, ever present and eternal" (S&H p. 306), was a great help to her during this time.

As the worker and her church stood with unswerving reliance on the allness of divine Love, God's plan became clear. A new, independent Christian Science church was born in Plainfield, New Jersey. This new babe is now in its fourteenth year and its promise is more apparent each day. The sick are being healed and the dead raised as in Mrs. Eddy's time. The church overflows with loving hearts who revere the forever Leader and her pure Science of Christianity.

A magazine containing the healing message of Christian Science is published by the Plainfield Church and has a large world-wide circulation. A Quarterly containing clear, inspiring Lesson Sermons is also published. The word of God goes forth with the healing love of the church, and as a result people from all over the world have joined this new church which they feel lives and demonstrates the pure Christian Science which Mrs. Eddy gave to mankind.

There truly was nothing to be disturbed about.

A man who lives right, and is right, has more power in his silence than another has by his words. Character is like bells which ring out sweet music and which, when touched, even accidentally, resound with sweet music.

Phillips Brooks

Why Is Christian Science Prospering in Plainfield?

Doris White Evans

March 1991

This is a question that has been asked by many.

One helpful answer is, "Come and see."

Those who visit the church are impressed by the strong feeling of dedication to a holy cause. There is an atmosphere of Christly love that comforts and heals.

Why is this church here and how did it come about, you may ask.

It came about because a group of sincere Christian Scientists were living the Truth so well, that it broke the shackles of ecclesiastical control, and established a church so faithful to the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, that the healing work for which Christian Science became renowned, is being repeated here.

How is this to be maintained? And how can we be sure that we will not fall into the trap that the Boston hierarchy failed to avoid?

This can, and is, being maintained through a membership devoted to serving God; a membership that is free to express the pioneer spirit of true Christian Science. Without free thought, Christian Science will perish.

Our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, states in *Science and Health*: "Spiritual rationality and free thought accompany approaching Science, and cannot be put down. They will emancipate humanity, and supplant unscientific means and so-called laws." (p. 223)

The individual cannot grow spiritually when he is bound by restrictive rules, and has his ardor dampened by threat of excommunication for the slightest infraction of arbitrarily imposed laws. This type of action has destroyed many a fine spiritual endeavor.

Why Is Christian Science Prospering in Plainfield?

Obedience to the Manual is requisite to preserve the pure Science of Christianity that Mrs. Eddy gave us. But obedience to rules not instituted by our Leader, but rather made by a fearful, dictatorial human organization, would strangle and eventually destroy all that she labored so diligently to give to the world.

We can avoid falling into evil's trap by maintaining our gratitude for all that our Leader has given us, and refusing to depart from its tenets.

Our members are free to read whatever God directs them to; to think and act as they are led by Spirit. Thus they can "sing and soar," and through their uplifted thoughts and lives, attract all mankind to Christ's door.

In Miscellany Mrs. Eddy states: "Today my soul can only sing and soar. An increasing sense of God's love, omnipresence, and omnipotence enfolds me. Each day I know Him nearer, love Him more, and humbly pray to serve Him better. Thus seeking and finding (though feebly), finally may we not together rejoice in the church triumphant?" (p. 174)

We are "singing and soaring" in Plainfield and rejoicing in the church triumphant.

Faithful commitment to God's service sets us apart from the troubles of the world.

Doris White Evans

Working for the good of others is not hard work, it is a burden that is light.

Mary Baker Eddy

A Sound Mind

Doris White Evans

March 1991

Viewing world conditions today, it would appear that mankind is enveloped in a state of fear: Fear of war, fear of disease, fear of recession, as well as countless other fears.

However, the Bible tells us that "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

In Christian Science we are learning that there is never a valid reason for fear or suffering, since man is made in the image and likeness of God, and is therefore held safe and perfect in the Father's love.

A wise man once said, "If you seem to be having trouble of any kind, look for it in the first chapter of Genesis. If you can't find it there, it doesn't exist, because everything that God made was pronounced Very good.'" This positive fact, held to firmly, will bring healing to any situation.

It has been the writer's experience, when affliction has tried to come, to ask, "What is the blessing in this experience?" This has quickly turned what would appear to be a catastrophe, into an opportunity to learn more about God and His eternal law of harmony. Thought flows into positive channels and is receptive to the messages from God, that will always deliver man from the clutches of fear and its unhappy results.

The Bible says that, "Perfect love casts out fear." Many have found that actively continuing to do good in God's name, when evil is screaming its loudest, is a most powerful antidote for fear.

Our Leader states in Miscellaneous Writings, "Christian Science shows that there is a way of escape from the latter-day ultimatum of evil, through scientific truth.

A Sound Mind

Thank God! This evil can be resisted by true Christianity. Divine Love is our hope, strength, and shield. We have nothing to fear when Love is at the helm of thought, but everything to enjoy on earth and in heaven." (p. 113) Unfaltering trust in God and loving service in His Cause, frees man from the negative suggestions of fear and maintains the "sound mind" that is man's birthright.

Here I am, dear God, ready, willing, and able to do Your work.

Doris White Evans

Within the reach of every Christian student there is a high goal, hopes that cannot deceive, virtues that bring their sure reward, joys that are imperishable. But remember, vigilance is the price of success; victories worth achieving are not cheaply won. The Christian Scientist, equipped with the spirit of his work, is a sure victor.

Mary Baker Eddy

God is not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; For we are also His offspring.

Acts 17:27-28

If there is one thing which is certain, it is that God's law governs all things.

Judge L N Blydenburgh

The Love of God

Doris White Evans

May 1991

A hymn in the Christian Science Hymnal states:

For the love of God is broader
Than is seen by human mind,
And the heart of the Eternal Is
most wonderfully kind.

Hymn No. 340

The idea of a “wonderfully kind” God has not been generally accepted by mankind. God has more often been pictured as a stern taskmaster who remembers our sins and holds them against us.

When Mary Baker Eddy discovered Christian Science and gave it to the world, it caused a great overturning of thought, as it conflicted with the cold theories of old theology which had formulated this false picture of an unforgiving and mostly unapproachable Deity.

Since the discovery of Christian Science, human thought has been slowly elevated from hopeless acceptance of evil, to the ability to throw off the shackles of servitude to disease, depression, poverty and the like.

Through the study of the textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, millions of lives have been transformed from hopelessness and suffering, to health and joyous confidence that God can heal everything.

The independent Christian Science Church in Plainfield can testify to healings taking place daily, and hourly, through the practice of this great Science. We are proving that no problem is too big for God. Lives are being saved, sanity restored, poverty healed. We have proven that a truly loving God will not allow man to be sick, poor or dying.

The Love of God

Come, join us, and find a wonderfully happy, triumphant life.

The Bible promises that, "God gave man dominion over all the earth." We are also assured that God's promises are kept. Come, be part of the fulfillment of God's glorious plan for mankind.

As Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health*, "The time for thinkers has come. Truth, independent of doctrines and time-honored systems, knocks at the portal of humanity." (p. vii)

Let's be sure that when Truth knocks, we are ready to answer!

A woman was running from the devil. Finally she stopped, for she was exhausted. She turned and faced the devil and said, "What are you going to do with me?" The devil answered, "I don't know. This is your dream."

Author Unknown

God is ever-present, and man is His image and likeness. This is a rule that will solve every problem.

Mary Baker Eddy

God's love for man has not ceased. The Bible promise is being fulfilled. The light of the Christ, in Christian Science, is again flooding the world, bringing hope and peace to struggling hearts.

Doris White Evans

It's Not Worth It

Doris White Evans

May 1991

A Christian Scientist who had important work to do, found himself terribly disturbed by the actions of people around him. There was confusion and dissension. Nothing was getting done. The pressure was almost unbearable.

He spoke to a practitioner about the problem and was assured of God's willingness and ability to care for the situation. A statement from *Miscellaneous Writings*, "No evidence before the material senses can close my eyes to the scientific proof that God, good, is supreme" (p. 277), was given to him to work with. In ending the conversation, the practitioner made a statement that he has never forgotten. She said, "Don't be disturbed. It's not worth it." The business situation was healed at once. But the Christian Scientist has never forgotten the words, "It's not worth it." And over the years when he has faced disturbing situations in his life, the words "It's not worth it" have quickly given him a clear perspective, and enabled him to rest his thought in God.

The intent of error is always to disrupt, and disturb man's thinking so that he forgets that "God, good, is supreme." The Bible assures us that, "In returning and rest shall ye be saved. In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

Our Leader tells us that, "A calm, Christian state of mind" (*Mis. Wr.* p. 229) is a sure preventive against trouble of any sort. It's so helpful when things seem to go temporarily out of control; when someone we've loved and counted on, acts in an unchristian and unkind manner, to remain unmoved, declaring, "This too shall pass." In this way we will prove that God's law of harmony and love always was in control and always will be.

Truly, error never was worth it!

"Trust in Truth"

Doris White Evans

July 1991

When Mary Baker Eddy discovered Christian Science in 1866, the healing system taught by Jesus, and lost sight of three hundred years after his ascension, was again set in motion. In 1875 she published her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. People who had been condemned to death with incurable diseases found themselves healed, simply by reading this book. A great spiritual revolution had begun. Freedom from sickness, sorrow, and poverty became a present possibility. The leaven of Truth was at work.

However, in recent years as Boston Christian Science has lost the momentum and spiritual power it demonstrated in its early years, the medical profession, which feared a loss of control, has become an overtly dictatorial organization. People are told that they need to have physical examinations every year, that they need to be X-rayed, mammogrammed, drugged. And people follow like docile sheep, meekly submitting to these atrocities.

However, the leaven of Truth is still at work. In a respected publication, we found an article written by a well-known doctor. He said, "You don't need to have regular medical examinations. It isn't necessary. Don't go along with all these things. Most of the physical problems that come along, will go away naturally; and the medical profession knows this. A person takes an antibiotic for a sore throat and thinks it helps him. But the doctors know it would have gone away even if he hadn't taken it. Many a well person goes into a doctor's office and comes out sick. What's the use of telling somebody they have something that you can't do anything about, and have them suffer and be anxious?"

We are so grateful to see this modern medical conspiracy stripped of its pretensions by one of its own fra-

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ternity. It is idolatry to worship any system and go through the paces that it dictates. There are many splendid doctors who are true humanitarians, and this does not apply to them. We are sincerely grateful for the good they do for suffering humanity.

The testimonies we hear in our church, and those appearing in 'Healing Thoughts,' are about healing through prayer. They prove that worshipping the one God and trusting this God with our lives, brings about wonderful changes. There is always something God can do, no matter what the problem may seem to be. Christian Science proves that nothing is impossible to God.

Science and Health states, "The power of Christian Science and divine Love is omnipotent. It is indeed adequate to unclasp the hold and to destroy disease, sin, and death." (p. 412) The leaven of Truth is at work. Don't doubt it. Trust God. Be patient. Declare faithfully that God's law is working, and then, let it work.

A Christian Science worker once said, "Be like the surf-riders in the South seas. They lean back into the wave and let it propel them." Lean back into God, trust Him, and let Him propel you forward. There's nothing impossible with God.

In the Lenten season, which for many sincere Christians appears to be a period of darkness and depression, refuse to go along with the lie. Keep your joy. Make it a happy time. Laugh. Don't cry. There's everything to rejoice in, nothing to mourn about. God is here. God loves us. God is caring for each and every one. Whatever our need may be, God is big enough, loving enough and kind enough to take care of it.

We were so grateful to see the doctor's article. If anyone is interested, we will let them have a copy of it. It can help bring freedom to people who've been in bondage to

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a system that has no validity. The medical writer said some frank things about the general medical profession. Mainly he stressed, "Think for yourself. Control your own experience. Don't go to doctors' offices unnecessarily. Don't have regular examinations and checkups. People need most to be peaceful and happy. That's the greatest source of well-being."

And that's what Christian Science brings to man: peace, happiness, and security, through trust in God. Mrs. Eddy counsels, "Trust in Truth and have no other trusts." (My. p. 171) The Bible promises, "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."

What wonderful freedom and joy come from realizing that we do not have to go along with anything that interferes with man's God-given right to freedom and wellbeing.

Science and Health

"the little open book"

Father, Thou art revealed to us,
Thru the pages of a book.
Here we find Truth in every word,
No further need we look.
Your message to a love-starved world,
Is here for all creation,
To understand Your love and power,
Through daily demonstration.
Day by day, as we go about each task,
In challenges, big or small,
We find the Truth we need,
In our "little open book,"
Healing proof that, "God is All!"

Art Anker

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Doris White Evans

July 1991

The first few words of this well-loved Psalm have comforted and healed many people throughout the ages. They bring a peaceful sense of God's all encompassing love and care. When all human hopes and supports have failed, turning to God with simple trust, has removed what have appeared to be insurmountable obstacles. The comfort of knowing that God does love us and hears our prayers brings a peace nothing else can.

As a shepherd tenderly cares for and leads his sheep, so does our loving Father-God tenderly care for and guide each one of us.

A woman who had been a Christian Scientist for many years and thought that she understood the religion thoroughly, was afflicted with a severe illness. When her own prayers failed to heal the situation, she called for the help of an experienced Christian Science practitioner. As the work progressed, the practitioner, recognizing the patient's need for peace, and simple trust in God, said, "Be like a little child. Take God's hand and let Him care for you." This was a new approach to the patient, as she had always felt that she had to do something to help God heal her problems.

As she worked with the practitioner and studied the Christian Science textbook, she earnestly prayed to be more peaceful and let God govern her life. Slowly, wonderful changes began to take place. The physical symptoms became less and less, until they disappeared completely. But much more wonderful was the mental change. She became more patient, gentle and kind. She realized that the problem was not an affliction, but a

The Lord Is My Shepherd

tremendous blessing causing her to grow.

As a result of her spiritual growth, people began to come to her for help through prayer, and she found that she could share the blessings that she had received, and see healing take place.

So, if you are faced with a problem that seems insurmountable, don't despair. Trust the loving Shepherd, God. Persevere in the Truth and claim the blessing that comes to those who truly wait on Him.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Remarks of a Recent Visitor

Doris White Evans

September 1991

Recently a long-time member of the Mother Church and of a New York City branch church, visited us for a Sunday service, and made comments that were most encouraging to all.

Immediately after the service, our visitor said, "What has been written about this church in your books and magazine is wonderful, but not nearly as wonderful as what I felt during the service, being in the midst of it all." He said he had read letters in our magazine where people had commented on the beauty and harmony of the singing; but until he "had actually heard it" himself, he "couldn't get over the beauty of it." Then he added, "You may think you have a lot of people coming now (we have many new visitors weekly), but get ready, because they'll be coming in droves especially after you have a big talker like me telling about it!" He said the large congregation was quite a difference from the twelve people he saw attending a recent Mother Church Wednesday service; so few that they were holding the service in the smaller, original Mother Church edifice. Our visitor also told us that when he was in Boston and asked Mother Church members about Plainfield Church, they would look around to make sure no one was listening and then would rave about the wonderful work that Plainfield Church is doing.

"You people are doing a wonderful job," he said. "I'm going to tell everyone about you. There are hundreds more out there who will be coming. There's a light coming out from your church. I could see it as I crossed the river from New York. It's a light that's drawing people to your church. Even though I'm meeting you people for the first

Remarks of a Recent Visitor

time, I feel I've always known you. You all look familiar to me."

Another thing our visitor noticed was the beauty of our church edifice, its freshly painted interior and beautifully cared-for grounds. He was very impressed when he was told that it was all done by the members themselves, working together every Saturday morning, in love and unity. His comments inspired us all.

Half the world is on the wrong scent in pursuit of happiness. They think it consists in having and getting, and in being served by others. It consists in giving and serving others. "He that would be great among you," said Christ, "let him serve."

Henry Drummond

Whatever God ordains for us to do, He surely gives us the strength to do.

Paul Stark Seeley

Life is inspiring, beautiful, triumphant. How could it be otherwise, with God leading us forward?

Doris White Evans

September 1991

Elijah was a servant of God. He had a passionate love of God. But he was often over-zealous. This led to unwise action. Error delights in catching people in just this way.

Elijah's people had become idol worshippers. Elijah was led by God to challenge their false beliefs, saying, "Can you bring about a miracle through your idol Baal? Or will you return to believing in the one God?" And so, Elijah and the people had a contest. The prophets of Baal prayed all day for fire from heaven to come down to the altar they had built to Baal and devour it, but nothing happened. Then Elijah, trusting God, put his sacrifice on the altar, and poured four barrels of water on the altar, three separate times. That was trust! The people thought nothing could possibly light that altar. But Elijah trusted God. He knew that when you trust God, wonderful things happen. And a great thing did happen. The fire of the Lord came down and consumed the bullock and the wood, the stones and the dust, and even the excess water in the trenches, so that nothing was left. This was a wonderful proof of God's power.

But Elijah didn't protect his thinking. He became elated and carried away with animal courage. Often, when we have done our best deeds, error is waiting to bring about our downfall. The devil wants man to get euphoric and do something foolish. Elijah fell into the trap because he was overzealous. This is a most dangerous trait. It is animal courage that can be used by evil.

In his misled state of thought Elijah had all the prophets of Baal killed. When wicked queen Jezebel heard of what he'd done, she sent him a message. "I'm going to have your head by this time tomorrow." Through his fool-

Elijah

ish action he brought upon himself a difficult problem. And so, as is common with the human mind, he went from elation, to depression and despair, because he had let this human, animal nature govern him. Through his own wrong thinking he'd brought about something that he did not want, the enmity of this wicked queen who had power to destroy him. And so he fled into the wilderness, in despair, and said, "God take my life. I might as well die out of this." But that was not to be, because he was the blessed of the Father, and God had a purpose for him. An angel appeared and fed him, not once but twice, and that spiritual food strengthened him and brought back his courage and trust in God.

On the strength of that food he journeyed forty days into the wilderness. When he had journeyed forty days and proven his obedience, God told him to come and stand upon the mount. And there was a horrendous manifestation of mortal mind. First there was a violent wind. Next there was an earthquake. And finally there was a fire. At last Elijah came to the realization that God wasn't in any of it; that God is never in any violent action. When he understood that fact, he was able to hear the still, small voice. The still, small voice which is speaking to every one of us, when we stop being overzealous, calm down and listen to what God is saying. It was a major step of progress for Elijah, because after that experience he went forth a new man, a powerful prophet of God, who accomplished great things.

The Bible states, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." If you stay in the spirit of peace, love, and spiritual power, evil can't find you. Stay in that peaceful, se-

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cret place. Don't react to the error that comes at you with the intent to disturb, and disrupt your good work for God. Violent action never wins.

The sun and the wind had a contest to see who could make a man take off his cloak. The wind blew and blew and blew, violently. But the harder it blew, the tighter the man hugged his cloak to him. And then the sun came out, and just shone. And the man took off his cloak. That's how God works. God's love shines and melts error. Stay in the spirit of Love. Refuse to come out. Refuse to be disturbed by error's lies, but stick to the truths that you know. Error is merely the absence of Truth. Well, then, what's the answer? Think more about the Truth. It's so simple. If error is trying to come into your life, think more about God. Fill your consciousness with love, joy and gratitude. Your spiritual light will extinguish the darkness of error.

Finally, "Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man." (S&H p. 393) God has made you capable of standing strong, of dwelling in the spirit of peace. And in that spirit of peace there is dominion and power. As one of our loved hymns says, "The joy that none can take away is mine: I walk with Love today."

Never despair. God has a blessing waiting for you. Put your life in His hands, and see His perfect plan unfold.

Doris White Evans

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.

Isaiah 54:10

Cast Your Burden on the Lord

Doris White Evans

November 1991

Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden,
God will bear both it and thee.

Hymn No. 360

Do you feel that life has dealt you some low blows and that your troubles are too hard to bear? Are you depressed and discouraged? Christian Science can help you, no matter how bad things may seem.

The Christian Science textbook defines God as “universal, eternal, divine Love.” (S&H p. 140) And it proceeds to explain that this loving God is not the source of affliction. The Bible asks, Can a fountain send forth sweet water and bitter? Would a God who is wholly good and loving, afflict His children?

A woman was faced with a severe illness that the doctors couldn't cure. She had been brought up in Christian Science but had left the Boston church. She had not been a member for many years. However, when the doctors failed to help her, she turned back to Christian Science. She spent much time in independent study of the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings, and prayed diligently about the problem, but the illness was not healed. She became deeply depressed and discouraged.

When she had given up hope of ever being healed, and was in great despair, a friend told her of the Plainfield Independent Christian Science Church, and of a wonderful healing that he had experienced. The woman decided to try Christian Science treatment, and called a practitioner from the Plainfield Church.

The practitioner agreed to accept the case. She spoke to the woman of God's great love for man and directed her

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to the hymn shown above. As she pondered the words of this hymn, she realized that she had been so wrapped up in her troubles, and mesmerized by the problem, that she had lost her joy and forgotten the needs of those around her.

As she studied, prayed, and had Christian Science help from the practitioner, she found a statement in *Miscellaneous Writings* (p. 343), which says, "Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body to find disease in the mortal mind, and its cure, in working for God." This awoke the patient to her real need for spiritual giving. She applied for membership in the Plainfield Church, became active on committees, and reached out to her family and friends in sincere Christly love. She began to pray daily about world conditions and found a joy she had never known before. Her life became a blessing to everyone.

The illness was healed quickly and permanently, and she learned the valuable lesson that God must be understood as a loving Father, and Truth must be lived and shared or it does not work.

As Science and Health states, "The Christian Science God is universal, eternal, divine Love, which changeth not and causeth no evil, disease, nor death." (p. 140)

Also, "Happiness is spiritual, born of Truth and Love. It is unselfish; therefore it cannot exist alone, but requires all mankind to share it." (p. 57)

Watch lest you pray to infinite Love and wisdom to remove from your path those experiences which have come to help you, and which you need in order to increase your understanding and growth, for the moment you learn the lessons such experiences have come to teach, they will disappear. *Gilbert Carpenter*

What If...?

Doris White Evans

January 1992

In view of several recent newspaper reports of the imminent demise of the Boston Christian Science organization, due to large scale spending on an unsuccessful media empire, many thinking Christian Scientists are wondering, Where do we go from here? Is Christian Science doomed?

Christian Science was discovered, founded and established by Mary Baker Eddy to be a "permanent dispensation among men." (S&H 150:9-10) Mrs. Eddy worked and prayed for over forty years to insure that her revelation would not be lost.

Since she departed this world in 1910, those in charge of the Boston organization have failed to heed the many warnings she gave against adulterating her Science. Bit by bit the high standard of conduct and healing which she demanded, has been eroded.

It's a known fact that many of the Boston teachers have been inadequately taught, and thus have been unable to impart the true Science of Christianity to their students.

Branch churches are empty. Many have been closed and sold, as congregations have disappeared. Healing in Christian Science is more and more a rarity. Lawcases against Christian Science parents, for neglect of their children, abound.

An unpleasant picture? Yes, certainly. But something can be done about it, because it is not part of God's perfect plan.

As the Boston organization loses the support and respect of the Field, people who have unthinkingly obeyed a demanding hierarchy are being challenged to think for themselves. As Science and Health states, "The time for

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thinkers has come. Truth, independent of doctrines and time-honored systems, knocks at the portal of humanity." (S&H vii:13-15) "It is the task of the sturdy pioneer to hew the tall oak and to cut the rough granite." (S&H vii:23-25) Mrs. Eddy also says, "Will you doff your lavender-kid zeal, and become real and consecrated warriors? Will you give yourselves wholly and irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the Science which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error, sin, disease, and death?" (Mis. Wr. 177:14-19)

Are we willing to become "real and consecrated warriors" for Truth? You bet we are!

Has our love for Truth grown cold? No! It's just been put to sleep. Now is the time to awake and claim our freedom in the name of Almighty God. Our textbook tells us that God has made us capable of this, and nothing can take this glorious power from us.

The Plainfield Church has been demonstrating its freedom for many years. There's a spirit among the members that is remarked on by every visitor who comes to church. It is the spirit of Truth and Love. It would have to be so, for we are living Mrs. Eddy's pure Christian Science, and as a result there's an abundance of healing; quick, permanent, healing that restores the soul. There's an atmosphere of peace and joy in the church.

"Before they call, I will answer." (Isa. 65:24) God knew the need before we did. In 1977 the Plainfield Church was forced by Boston to become independent, and it has continued to grow and prosper, ever since. Other branch churches can do the same, before they perish.

Without freedom of thought and action, a Cause stagnates. Our Leader states, "Spiritual rationality and free thought accompany approaching Science, and can

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not be put down. They will emancipate humanity, and supplant unscientific means and so-called laws.”

(S&H 223:21-24)

“Spiritual rationality and free thought” are active in Plainfield. This has brought about a glorious adventure that we are loving to live.

Come, visit us and see Christian Science in action. You will be welcomed with great love, and you won’t go away disappointed. No one has yet.

Keeping in Tune

Each kind act,
Every loving thing you do,
Pleases God,
And blesses you.

Every good deed,
Is a command from heaven,
That breaks error’s boasting,
With Truth’s healing leaven.

Each prayerful thought,
God answers with proof,
Replacing false concepts,
With healing rays of Truth.

Each time we turn to God,
To direct our upward way,
We can trust in His wisdom,
And have blessing in our day.

Art Anker

Rejoice Evermore

Doris White Evans

January 1992

A renowned medical man recently wrote that the people of this nation are afflicted with a nameless, floating anxiety. He said that they go through their days worried about they know not what.

What a lie about God's perfect creation! Is there anything we can do to remedy it? We certainly can, and Christian Science gives the answer.

We can first thank God that no one, anywhere, can be subject to such a lie. God never said it, therefore we can resist it with all the power God has given us. In the science of mathematics it wouldn't matter how many people believed that $2 \times 2 = 5$. It is untrue, and can be easily disproved.

The same thing applies to current medical or psychological beliefs. They are as untrue as $2 \times 2 = 5$. If God doesn't approve them, they have no validity, and can be disproved by the person who trusts in God, and refuses to be taken in by the negative suggestions of mortal mind.

The Bible contains a wonderful answer to this fad called nameless floating anxiety. It is:

"Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:16-18).

Rejoice evermore. No matter what's going on, rejoice!

There's always good to be rejoiced in. God is with us forever. We can rejoice that we know this, and that God loves us. And that even though the clouds may be thick at times, God is right here, and we can trust His perfect plan.

Pray without ceasing. Don't talk to error. Don't listen

Rejoice Evermore

to its arguments. Keep your thought stayed on God. Praying without ceasing, is loving to do right, and doing it!

In every thing give thanks. Not just for the big things that are so obvious, but for every little bit of good that appears, say, thank you, Father. Thank you, Father, because it all comes from You.

If someone has done something kind for you, recognize that they've been guided by God, and be sure you thank them, too. That completes the circle of love and gratitude.

Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks.

As you practice these truths, you will never be subject to a nameless floating anxiety. There is no such thing! The light of Truth extinguishes it.

Thank God for our dear Leader, Mrs. Eddy, who has given us Christian Science. Thank God that we can be faithful to it, and practice it with enthusiasm and love.

God's idea of church is forever established in Mind. Christian Science will stand forever, because it is God's blessing to mankind.

Attic Room, Lynn

Not much that earth could give was there
Within those walls: a table, a chair,
A Bible with its holy leaven,
A woman writing—and a light from heaven.

Max Dunaway

Glorify God

Doris White Evans

March 1992

Christian Science teaches that God has redeemed us from the cruel and aggressive law of sin and death.

Whatever the problem may be, no matter how big it may seem, it has no power because God has given it none. And if God has not given it power, it cannot exist.

The Bible tells us that God made man in His image and likeness, and that God blessed him. It also tells us to glorify God in our bodies, and it promises that all flesh shall see God's salvation. It tells us to lift up our eyes, and see God's love and kindness all around us, and finally, to magnify God's work.

How do we do this?

Before retiring at night, thank God for all the blessings that have come to you in the day. Give Him heartfelt thanks. In the morning when you get up, declare, "This is God's day. All the events of this day are in God's hand. He is my loving Father, and gives only good. I believe this with all my heart."

As you study the Lesson with an open mind, take in the message that God has for you. Don't ever hurry through it, thinking, "I'm going to read this quickly and then get off to business." But, sit down quietly and say, "Dear Lord, open my heart to receive Your truth." And then, as you read the Lesson, listen carefully. Let God speak to you.

The beautiful thing about our Lesson Sermon is, that it meets the need for each one. Whatever your need is, the Lesson Sermon, from the Bible and Science and Health, will meet it.

I find it helpful to take one statement each day from the Bible or Science and Health, write it down, and use it as I go about my business. That's how I've memorized

Glorify God

many wonderful Bible verses, and statements from our textbook. Working with them daily, you take them into your heart. It is never mindless repetition. It's absorbing the truths of God, and letting them become part of your life. When these truths are in your heart, you will find yourself magnifying each good thing that you see, rejoicing in it, and giving God the glory. You will be able to say firmly to anything that isn't good, God never made you. Get thee hence. You could have no power unless it was given you by God. And since I know God saw everything that He made, and it was good, this cannot be true.

Mrs. Eddy calls evil an illusion. She says on page 495 of the textbook, "When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling steadfastly to God and His idea. Allow nothing but His likeness to abide in your thought. Let neither fear nor doubt overshadow your clear sense and calm trust, that the recognition of life harmonious—as Life eternally is—can destroy any painful sense of, or belief in, that which Life is not."

Keep error where it belongs, only an illusion. Don't think you're fighting something real, whether it calls itself a sick body, a sick job, a sick economy, or a sick world. God never said it! Therefore it's not true.

God saw everything that He made, and it was very good. And it continues to be very good, because God's giving is forever. Nothing can be added to, nor taken away from what God has done. The Bible assures us of this.

Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health* that all bad effects come from a law of so-called mortal mind. A so-called law! There is no such law! Therefore it is false and powerless. We are told to exercise our God-given authority to resist all that is unlike good. God has made us capable of this. As we exercise this authority, and continue to

magnify good every day, we will find that we will become stronger, and surer in the Truth.

All evil wants you to do is talk to it, argue with it, and thereby give it reality. But if you refuse to do this, when the voice of error suggests that God is not All, you will be exercising your God-given authority. Then you can demand that evil get hence, as Jesus did. And you'll feel the very presence and power of God with you, as, in reality, it always has been, and understand that the law of God is operating to bless and heal right now.

God has made everything good. Let's magnify the good today. See the good in everyone. See the good in your families, in your friends, in those you meet. You'll be surprised at the wonderful things that will happen when you see people right, and love them as God's perfect children.

I remember a fine practitioner I worked with as a young girl. I asked her for help because there was someone I couldn't seem to like. The practitioner said to me, "It is your duty to see him as God's perfect child. However, you do not have to have this person in your soup." It was a very helpful thought: I had to see the person as God made him, perfect, but I didn't have to have him in the middle of my life. I did what she suggested and the troublesome person left my experience, peacefully.

It's a wonderful freedom Christian Science gives us. The answer to everything is love. Love more; love, love, love. And as we love, we see the glorious universe that God has created, and know that its perfection is with us forever.

What Is True Christian Science?

Doris White Evans

May 1992

The discoverer of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, defines God as “universal, eternal, divine Love.” (S&H p. 140) If we accept this definition, we start on a wonderful journey in Truth.

True Christian Science is a way of life. It is a religion of love, healing and kindness.

As we study Christian Science, we realize that a loving God would never leave man without hope, nor afflict him with sickness, poverty, or sorrow.

This realization inspires us to challenge trouble with righteous prayer, and to see trouble flee before the Truth we know and love.

This kind of prayer has worked for millions of people since Mrs. Eddy discovered Christian Science in 1866. It continues to work in the Plainfield Independent Christian Science Church (which has no connection in any way with the church in Boston).

People, discouraged by lack of healing in their churches and lives, have written to us from all over the world asking what we are doing to have so much healing taking place.

There's just one simple answer: We love.

The Bible tells us to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. We practice this diligently in the Plainfield Church.

Our magazine, 'Healing Thoughts,' tells over and over again of deeds of kindness and love, done in secret to brothers in need.

We have a large Nigerian membership that we cherish and hope to meet in the near future. Our Nigerian

Sermons and Articles

members have the most loving, grateful hearts we've found anywhere. God is answering their prayers, through Christian Science, as He always will, when hearts are sincere. Thank God for every one of these wonderful new friends.

The spirit of true Christian Science is a simple, pure, and fervent love of God and of our fellow man. It doesn't require a lot of education to understand and practice this Science. It needs to be lived, not just talked. And as we live it in our homes, businesses, in our world, our lives get better, our bodies are healed, our purses filled, our world improved.

Christian Science is truly the fulfillment of the law of Love.

Hold Fast

The cause of good shall win,
The side of right shall gain,
For Love must blot out sin,
And health will laugh at pain.

The Lord of hosts has heard,
The hand of God will mend,
Far back He gave His word,
He'll keep it to the end.

He'll check the fever's throb,
He'll stop the sinful whim,
He'll stay the hands that rob.
Lose not your faith in Him .

W. D. McCrackan

No Gray Zones

Doris White Evans

May 1992

Several years ago I had an important decision to make which would affect the lives of many people. The answer wasn't coming easily, although I had prayed over it sincerely. There was a lot of pressure put on me by several well-intentioned friends, but I felt extremely uneasy about the situation. Then I remembered the words of a wise Christian Science practitioner who had said, "If you have a decision to make and the answer doesn't come at once, wait quietly, and don't act until you feel peaceful about the matter and know that God directs your path."

My problem was, that I was faced with the choice of going along with a standard of conduct that was totally foreign to the pure Christian Science that I had lived with since early childhood, and obeying a dictatorial edict from a hierarchy that had sadly departed from the teachings of our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy; or listening to and obeying what I felt God was telling me to do, even if it caused a great upheaval.

The teaching, "Perfect God, perfect man, perfect universe" had been accepted and lived in our home. My parents firmly believed that "Right is radical" (S&H p. 452), and they stood unwaveringly for the high principles Mary Baker Eddy established for Christian Scientists. I never saw them resort to half-way measures. They believed that a thing was either right or wrong and there was no in-between.

As an old song says:

You want to accentuate the positive,
Eliminate the negative,
And don't mess with Mr. In-between.

I remembered with deepest gratitude how one lone

Sermons and Articles

woman, Mary Baker Eddy, published a book which was considered revolutionary, and endured the scorn and scoffs of many people because she had a standard which included no halfway measures, no backing up, in other words, no gray zones. Her faith in God, and her willingness to stand for what she knew was true, established a great Christian movement that prospered and grew while she was here with us.

My heart's desire was to be faithful to Right and with the example of our dear Leader firmly held in thought, I made my decision with a peaceful heart.

The outcome has been beyond anything I could have foreseen. A strong, thriving, independent Christian Science Church was the outcome of the decision to stand radically for what God directed, and not obey the harsh, unloving demands of five misguided directors in Boston.

Someone once said that miracles don't just happen, they require hard work. But hard work is joyous and exhilarating, when done to the glory of God. It can only bless all those involved.

So if you have accepted gray zones in your life, thinking that there's nothing more you can do to improve unpleasant situations, take heart. Mrs. Eddy says, "Truth is affirmative, and confers harmony." (S&H p. 418) An affirmative God wouldn't maroon man in a negative situation. Truth's standard: Perfect God, man, universe, is unalterable. Nothing can change it. Therefore it is attainable here and now. And perfection doesn't include halfway measures.

That's what Christian Science is all about: The sturdy pioneer, the diligent worker. We have no gray zones in Plainfield. But we do have unbounded joy and abundant healing.

No Gray Zones

For this we thank God.

So hitch your wagon to a star and expect the highest, the holiest and the best in every situation. It's your divine right to claim and possess it.

As Mrs. Eddy states in *Miscellaneous Writings* (p. 307), "Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment. This sweet assurance is the 'Peace, be still' to all human fears, to suffering of every sort."

Remember that there will be nothing come to you that you cannot overcome. The victory is yours by inheritance; claim it and use it as yours.

Mary Baker Eddy

When you are involved in unselfish labor, you put yourself under divine law.

Maintain your peace, no matter what error is saying. The peaceful thought is receptive to God's messages, to His guidance and absolute protection.

The fact of God's allness rules out every claim that evil has continuity or power.

We can rejoice that there is a law of God which will release us from evil's unreal bondage and bring us into the glorious kingdom of God.

Doris White Evans

Establishing a Church

Doris White Evans

July 1992

Many people have asked how the Plainfield Independent Christian Science Church was established.

The answer is quite simple. A group of people who were healed and saved by Christian Science were brought together by God, to insure that Christian Science would not be lost to mankind.

The Boston-based Christian Science organization, through lack of love, and common sense, was rapidly dying. Churches were closing, people were not being healed. There was an atmosphere of stagnation and frustration in the churches that remained.

Mary Baker Eddy, the Leader of this great movement, states that, "Love is the heart and soul of Christian Science." Without love, nothing can succeed.

There was obviously a need to return to the spirit of the Founder, and God in His great love provided a way for this to be done.

The Boston directors, in 1976, ordered the Plainfield Church to dismiss their Board of Trustees, seven people highly respected in the church and community, and elect seven people who would sign an oath of loyalty to the Boston directors. A meeting of the members was called, and it was voted, unanimously, to support our local Trustees. The Boston directors delisted our church from the Christian Science Journal and we became the first independent Christian Science church in the world in June 1977.

That was the beginning of our growth and prosperity

Once freed from the control of ecclesiastical despotism, our members began to discover and study the many forbidden and "unauthorized" (by Boston) writings of

Establishing a Church

Mary Baker Eddy, and of the early workers. It was inspiring!

As a result of the spiritual growth of the members, many new people were attracted to our church.

When Boston delisted our church, we had thirty-five members. We now number several hundred members.

In view of the sad situation in Boston, it is apparent that Plainfield Church was established by God, to be the first of many “self-governed” independent churches in the world. Our Church Manual states: “The Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, shall assume no general official control of other churches, and it shall be controlled by none other. Each Church of Christ, Scientist, shall have its own form of government.” In becoming free from Boston’s dictatorial control, Plainfield Church has obeyed this Manual By-law given us by Mary Baker Eddy. As a result of this obedience, we have prospered.

Our church is a happy place where the members work together in love. We have twenty-five to thirty testimonies of current healing at our Wednesday services. Our Sunday services are inspiring, and the church is full. We are distributing the textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, throughout the world. There are groups of independent Christian Scientists meeting all over the world, using our *Quarterly* for their Sunday services. It is evident that this is the future of Christian Science. As our Leader says, “Spiritual rationality and free thought accompany approaching Science, and cannot be put down. They will emancipate humanity, and supplant unscientific means and so-called laws.” (*Science and Health*, p. 223)

We are grateful to see Mrs. Eddy’s God-inspired words now being proved by Christian Scientists everywhere.

July 1992

O Lord, I would delight in Thee,
And on Thy care depend;
To Thee in every trouble flee,
My best, my ever Friend.

Hymn 224

This familiar hymn has been a great help to many people in times of trouble. It echoes the Bible statement, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you."

What a comfort to feel that God knows us and cares about us. No one is ever alone or unloved. The Bible tells us over and over of God's protecting power and tender love.

In moments when error is screaming its loudest, and our problems seem insurmountable, we can rest on the bosom of God, trusting His constant care of His own.

In *Miscellaneous Writings* our Leader says, "Through the divine energies alone one must get out of himself and into God so far that his consciousness is the reflection of the divine." (p. 352)

Many years ago a practitioner gave this statement to me when I was in deep trouble. I loved it and lived with it. It delivered me from the hell of false belief, and led me into the kingdom of God. What a relief it was to realize that I could rest in the Father's love while learning more about my perfection as a child of God. It was the beginning of my understanding of how Christian Science works; how simple it is, and how I could cast my cares upon God and have them removed.

From that time on, I had a joyous sense that no matter what happened, God was there, and that He would, and could, care for the situation.

God's Care

What a blessing that practitioner bestowed upon me by turning me to our Leader's writings. I can never be grateful enough that she so clearly reflected God's love and care, that she could awaken me from the bad dream of life in matter, to the eternal Truth of life in God.

A comforting statement found in Miscellaneous Writings promises, "'If God be for us, who can be against us?' If He be with us, the wayside is a sanctuary, and the desert a resting-place peopled with living witnesses of the fact that 'God is Love.' He guards, guides, feeds, and folds the sheep of His pasture; and their ears are attuned to His call. In the words of the loving disciple, 'My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.'" (p. 150)

What a blessed assurance! Man, forever beloved of his Father, God; held safe in His love and eternally sustained by His abundant goodness.

As our beloved Leader says, "More we cannot ask: more we do not want: more we cannot have." (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 307)

The man of God's creating is always complete, holy, healthy, harmonious, strong, active, and free.

Raymond Brook

At every moment God has His arms around me, telling me how much He loves me. This is the Christ. The certainty of His ever-present care is like two plus two equals four. This is Science. Put them both together and you have our salvation, Christian Science.

Stephen Richey

The 88th Manual

Doris White Evans

September 1992

We are often asked the question, "Why do you obey the 88th edition of the Manual, when Boston branches abide by the 89th?" The answer is quite simple. The 88th edition of the Manual was the one found on Mrs. Eddy's desk when she passed on in 1910.

The 89th edition which the directors changed, was circulated by them after she left us, but this illegal Manual was not approved by Mrs. Eddy.

There is a major change, made by the directors, to the By-Law that states what the order of services in The Mother Church shall be. The directors added to this By-Law, the words, "And branch churches," therefore specifying that branch church services must conform to The Mother Church services, thus taking control of branch churches. Mrs. Eddy did not approve this change, which gives absolute control of branch church services to the directors.

After their spurious Manual was accepted, the directors slowly took over the branches, until anyone who disagreed with their policies was put on probation, and eventually excommunicated. In this way, many fine teachers and practitioners left the movement, and spiritual growth was stalled.

As the years went by, the directors' power became fearsome. The statement, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely," became a truism.

In recent months, the Boston Globe, a highly respected newspaper, has given an in-depth account of the misdeeds of the directors, and their resignation has been called for by many sincere, thinking Christian Science teachers, practitioners, and members.

Due to the abuse of Mrs. Eddy's Manual, the Boston Christian Science Church is in a state of serious decline.

The 88th Manual

Members are leaving in droves, as they realize they've been hoodwinked by an organization that has no resemblance to the splendid Christian Science movement that Mary Baker Eddy gave to her followers.

It is no coincidence that Plainfield Christian Science Church services, Sunday and Wednesday, are filled with grateful people, and that healing occurs regularly during these services.

Our love for the Founder, Mary Baker Eddy, our willingness to obey her directives, and to stand, under the criticism of those who, only now, are beginning to realize how they have been taken in by the smooth-tongued villainy of mortal mind, have brought the respect and success that Plainfield Christian Science Church enjoys.

Let us add, that we bear no ill will to anyone. We can only rejoice that the poet's statement, "The mills of God grind slowly, Yet they grind exceeding small," is coming to pass. Evil is being unmasked, and Truth rules the day.

We do obey, and will continue to obey, our Leader's 88th Manual.

Pray aright and demonstrate your prayer; sing in faith. Know that religion should be distinct in our consciousness and life, but not clamorous for worldly distinction. Goodness and philanthropy begin with work and never stop working. Our thoughts beget our actions; they make us what we are. Dishonesty is a mental malady which kills its possessor; it is a sure precursor that its possessor is mortal. A deep sincerity is sure of success, for God takes care of it. God bless this dear church, and I am sure that He will if it is ready for the blessing.

May the beauty of holiness be upon this dear people, and may this beloved church be glorious, without spot or blemish.

Mary Baker Eddy

Meeting Problems in Christian Science

Doris White Evans

September 1992

Many people come to Christian Science with problems that need healing. Their hearts are heavy with fear, bitterness, and depression. They tell of loneliness, misunderstanding with family members, struggles to earn a living, etc. The way ahead looks dark and difficult, and human will asserts itself with such thoughts as: I don't know what the trouble is, I don't seem to be making any progress, I will have to do something drastic.

Often the person who needs healing, disregards the rights of others, and forgets that God's love includes everyone involved in the case. This attitude of thought limits his demonstration, and builds the very walls of resistance he is trying to tear down.

If he will only forsake the selfish human mind, and stop insisting upon what he thinks must be done, he will be on the path to healing. He can rejoice that God's will is being done, and realize that every other person in the case is as precious to God as he is, and that God's power is able to meet every human need.

As he stops outlining what the answer should be, God's purpose will begin to appear in his experience, and with this change in thought, a glorious light will brighten the darkness, patience will replace the struggle of human will, and God's healing love will be clearly seen.

The solution of the problem is often more beautiful and far-reaching than he had dreamed possible, and he emerges from the gloomy sense of unrewarded human effort, into the holy realization of the action of divine Love accomplishing its complete purpose.

As our Leader states in Miscellaneous Writings: "These two words in Scripture suggest the sweetest simi-

Meeting Problems in Christian Science

les to be found in any language—rock and feathers: How blessed it is to think of you as 'beneath the shadow of a great rock in a weary land/ safe in His strength, building on His foundation, and covered from the devourer by divine protection and affection. Always bear in mind that His presence, power, and peace meet all human needs and reflect all bliss." (p. 263)

The Church Independent

In prayerful trust,
That the way be revealed,
Listening for God's voice,
We came, and were healed—

To the church, independent,
Whose doors open wide,
To all seekers of Truth,
Having nothing to hide.

Brothers and sisters,
Working as one,
Building, renewing,
Love, making it fun!

Trials may confront us,
On our God-directed way,
But, onward we go
As we work, watch and pray!

Art Anker

The Spiritual Thinker

Doris White Evans

September 1992

What is spiritual thinking? How is it different from material thinking? How can one eliminate the negative thoughts which seem to persistently crowd human consciousness? These are important questions, which directly affect one's life and spiritual growth. Christian Science answers them all; and, gives simple instructions as to how to progress in the process of transforming thought to conform with true consciousness, which is spiritual.

The directions are so simple that a child can understand them. Spiritual thinking, is thinking the good thoughts that God gives. Mortal thinking, concerns the beliefs of the flesh, which insist that life and intelligence are in matter. Jesus understood this perfectly. He said to Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Spiritual thinking requires study and active demonstration.

If a man wants to learn math, he studies the subject, and thinks about it deeply. As he continues this line of thought, he is able to succeed.

The situation is much the same in gaining spiritual understanding. The man who wants to progress quickly, dwells on the goodness of God and His perfect spiritual creation. He fills his consciousness with the truth about all things: The spiritual universe with all its purity, beauty, and goodness, where there is no place for evil of any kind. As he persists in thinking this way, fresh ideas unfold and his spiritual vision is enlarged.

In response to the question, "How can I progress most rapidly in the understanding of Christian Science?" Mrs. Eddy says, in *Science and Health*, "Study thoroughly the letter and imbibe the spirit. Adhere to the divine Prin-

The Spiritual Thinker

ciple of Christian Science and follow the behests of God, abiding steadfastly in wisdom, Truth and Love." (p. 495)

Jesus gave us a wonderful example of spiritual steadfastness. With trust in God, he went forward to prove the power of divine Love to meet all human needs. His ministry was totally given to doing the works of God. He never departed from his course, for any reason at all. Nothing stopped him or changed his purpose. We can't doubt his devotion. He thought, and lived, the spirit of the Christ continuously.

Our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, expressed the same steadfastness. Her holy purpose was to re-establish Christianity on its original basis. She so lived the spirit of true Christianity, that it ruled her completely. Science and Health is filled with instructions that enable us to practice Christian Science, which Mrs. Eddy demonstrated so thoroughly, in healing all types of disease and trouble.

Eliminating evil thoughts isn't difficult. Weeds can't grow in a garden completely filled with flowers. A bed full of flowers makes weed-growth impossible. Even if they should appear from hidden seeds, they can't thrive without sunlight and water. In the same way, evil thoughts can't occupy a mentality holding to the reality of the good, the beautiful, and the true.

Christian Scientists know that it is as possible to keep evil thoughts out of consciousness, as it is to shut the door on unwelcome visitors to their homes.

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he," declared the prophet. Our safety then, lies in correcting evil thoughts before they produce unpleasant results. As this is done faithfully, our days are filled with happy experiences and we give living proof of the fact that a God-filled consciousness brings blessings wherever it goes.

In Quietness and in Confidence

Doris White Evans

November 1992

The world at present appears to be in a state of chaos. There are riots, crime, wars, and general unrest. To the Christian Scientist this is a time to draw closer to God.

In 1975 a respected worker, Roscoe Drummond, in an address to the Christian Science Church, said, "The world is reflecting the state of the Christian Science movement. Therefore we'd better get to work." Few people listened, as they were being lulled by the soporific literature coming out of Boston, and the statements made by the Directors, that all was well.

Roscoe Drummond was soon silenced by Boston and forbidden to give his views on the danger to the Cause of Christian Science, and to humanity. However, his words have been proven true.

What can be done about the world situation?

Our Leader says in *Science and Health* (p. 96), "During this final conflict, wicked minds will endeavor to find means by which to accomplish more evil; but those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check. They will aid in the ejection of error. They will maintain law and order, and cheerfully await the certainty of ultimate perfection."

How can we work effectively to heal these conditions?

The true Christian Scientist does not live in an ivory tower, ignoring the troubles of mankind. Rather does he love his fellow man and is deeply concerned about his well-being. He is active in his support of right, and takes whatever steps are needed to correct wrong situations. However, he maintains his peace, no matter how aggressive the evil may be.

In Quietness and in Confidence

The Bible counsels, "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

The refusal to react and become disturbed by the events of the day, is the first step toward the realization that man has nothing to be disturbed about, because, in spite of all opposing evidence, the law of God is operating and in complete control.

Mary Baker Eddy cautions us to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world," and this means, untouched by the emotionalism, depression and fear running rampant in the world.

This wise counsel keeps man in the "secret place of the most High" where the evil tidings of mortal mind cannot disturb him. He is receptive to the voice of Truth, which is forever declaring the glory and peace of God to all mankind.

As the surface of a peaceful lake reflects the beauty of the sky, trees and flowers, so the reflection from a peaceful consciousness, bestows nothing but blessings on mankind.

Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health* (p. 306), "Undisturbed amid the jarring testimony of the material senses, Science, still enthroned, is unfolding to mortals the immutable, harmonious, divine Principle, — is unfolding Life and the universe, ever present and eternal."

With "quietness and confidence" we can view the affairs of our world, assured that Truth is effecting its perfect plan, and that all mankind dwell in perfect safety and peace.

"The prayer of the righteous has great power." (Moffatt Bible) Let us have confidence in the power of righteous prayer, and continue in this prayer until we see peace on earth, and humanity blessed.

"O Gentle Presence"

Doris White Evans

November 1992

I remember when I was a small child, my mother singing Mrs. Eddy's hymn "O Gentle Presence" to me. It never failed to bring comfort, peace, and a feeling of God's nearness. When I was ill, it healed me.

When I was age seven, I became severely ill with scarlet fever. There was an epidemic in our city, and people were quarantined all around us. Mother called her Christian Science teacher, who came to the house. I was so ill that I was hardly aware of her presence. The first thing I heard was the teacher quietly and lovingly reciting Mrs. Eddy's hymn "O Gentle Presence." Suddenly, I was well, and asked for food. The fever and rash disappeared at once, and it was never necessary to quarantine our house because I was completely healed.

Mother loved Christian Science and appreciated Mrs. Eddy for the great Leader she was. Her singing of Mrs. Eddy's hymns, reflected the love and gratitude she felt for having found Christian Science before I was born. The atmosphere established by the singing of Mrs. Eddy's hymns in our home caused me to grow up loving Christian Science, and wanting to spend my life living this truth, and serving God.

After I had married and my children came along, I continued Mother's practice by singing Mrs. Eddy's hymns to them. Many a dark night was made brighter by the singing of these hymns. So-called children's diseases, broken bones, and other threatening situations were healed through steadfastly holding to these wonderful hymns of praise to God.

Mrs. Eddy was inspired by God in everything she gave to mankind. Her hymns are spiritual messages that uplift and heal.

"O Gentle Presence"

It seems a simple thing, the singing of Mrs. Eddy's hymns to children, but it is also a tremendous spiritual power. As a result of the spiritual atmosphere established by the frequent singing of these loved hymns, both children are sincere and active members of Plainfield Christian Science Church; one as a Reader and practitioner and the other as a Lesson Sermon writer.

I thank God for the love and comfort to be found in Christian Science. It has healed millions of people through the years and it will do the same for anyone who wants to find God. As the Bible says, "With God all things are possible." Christian Science has proved that statement to be true.

Wherefore Didst Thou Doubt?

Oh, troubled heart, do not forget
That Love divine has always met
Every human need;

His gracious hand, His tender care,
Will guard and guide you everywhere,
And gently lead.

You, too, can feel the touch divine
Of healing Love. Do not repine
At error's voice;

It's but a dream, untrue, unreal;
Love ever waits to bless and heal:
Awake! Rejoice!

Then and Now

Doris White Evans

January 1993

Recently, while thanking God for the tremendous growth of our church, I remembered the lack of freedom we suffered under the Boston regime. Boston's severe ecclesiastical control had created an atmosphere of hopelessness, fear and suspicion. New people were not being attracted to the church (How could they be, with such an atmosphere?), and long-time members were passing on.

At one point our Readers were informed by Boston that they should have voice lessons to improve their reading. A woman chosen by Boston was named as the person to give the lessons. One dear man, our First Reader, obeyed their edict and had the lessons. Previously, his reading had been clear and deeply loving. After several voice lessons, he became cold, mechanical and sounded as if he had a mouth full of marbles. What a loss that was to our church! He never recovered from those unnecessary voice lessons.

Those who receive our service tapes know how beautifully our present Readers read. Neither one has had voice lessons, but they read from the standpoint of great love for God, a deep spirituality, and the freedom to express the Truth as they are directed by God.

At another time the Boston directors decreed that pictures of Mary Baker Eddy must be removed from our Reading Room. We complied reluctantly, in obedience to those we thought were listening to God. Mrs. Eddy's picture was sent to our church where it was given a place of honor in our Board room.

Since we have become independent, Mrs. Eddy's picture has been placed on the platform wall of our Sunday School, where the children can see the beautiful, spiritually illumined face of our beloved Leader.

Then and Now

We've since heard from many sincere Scientists, from all over the world, of their sorrow in having to remove Mrs. Eddy's picture from their churches and Reading Rooms. Again, what a loss!

That was all "Then." And this is "Now." And are we grateful!

"Now" is a wonderful time. We are free to love and demonstrate Mrs. Eddy's glorious Science, without the cold hand of ecclesiastical despotism crushing every new, and fresh idea, that God gives us. There's tremendous love among the members, and no fear. No one can report us to the Boston hierarchy, because, to us, the Boston hierarchy doesn't exist.

The freedom of "Now" has been won through hard work. But, oh, what joy has come with it! Our practitioners are doing wonderful healing work. Our families stick together. Our children are well and happy. And our church continues to grow rapidly.

So don't be discouraged about Boston's disgrace. It can't destroy Mrs. Eddy's revelation. Christian Science is alive and well, in Plainfield. We'd love to have you join us in this grand adventure. There will be no probing questions, just a simple "Do you believe that Christian Science is the way, and the only way?"

God bless you all, and lead you in whatever path is right for you.

One with God is a majority. We can do whatever God ordains, if we line ourselves up with Him.

Doris White Evans

It is through love that spiritual law is brought into operation in human affairs.

Amanda Colbath

The Carnal Mind

Doris White Evans

January 1993

Early in my experience in Christian Science, a practitioner told me, that upon arising in the morning, I should immediately declare, "God is Mind; God is my Mind; God is the only pure Mind." She explained to me, that human consciousness is like an empty sponge, ready to absorb, and that if it was filled with right thoughts from God, it would not absorb the fearful, negative thoughts that make up the carnal mind.

What is the carnal mind? In *Science and Health* (p. 131) Mrs. Eddy quotes a statement from Romans, "The carnal mind is enmity against God." That's an arresting thought. She also says (p. 311), "What we term mortal mind or carnal mind, dependent on matter for manifestation, is not Mind."

The carnal mind, alias mortal mind, is enmity against God! The dictionary defines enmity as the bitter feelings of an enemy; hostility, antagonism. Therefore this hostile so-called mind is not the friend of man, and needs to be recognized for what it is—a deceiver and a robber.

How does the carnal mind operate? By stealth. It sneaks up on people, hoping not to be recognized for the evil thing it is. The suggestions it puts forth seem normal, such as: I'm tired and can't think clearly; this item is too expensive, I can't afford it, etc. These suggestions, and others like them, would rob man of his God-given heritage of freedom. If these false suggestions succeed in lulling man into a state of apathy, the carnal mind soon follows them with more aggressive negative suggestions. These, too, may seem normal to the unalert thought. They may be presented as: I'm getting a cold; I don't have enough money; I'm unhappy at home; my boss doesn't like me; etc. All seemingly normal, but part of the carnal

The Carnal Mind

mind's underhanded way of gaining entry into, and control of, man's thought. If these suggestions are not arrested, they will be followed by more aggressive, serious lies. The Scriptures declare, that "to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are." It's a mental battle; therefore, obey only God.

Mrs. Eddy states, "The admission of the reality of evil perpetuates the belief, or faith, in evil." (Mis. Wr. p. 46)

If we believe that evil is real it's going to appear in our experience. That's why it is so necessary to be constant in our declaration that, "we have the mind of Christ."

You wouldn't let an enemy into your home. Why, then, let this negative, hostile so-called mind invade your consciousness?

This lying carnal mind which depends "upon matter for manifestation" is a fraud. A thought stayed on God cannot be invaded by its unreal suggestions.

Christian Science is a positive way of life. Mrs. Eddy's motto was "Prepare war." Prepare war against anything that would usurp your right to claim your dominion as a child of God. Claim the mind of Christ as your own mind.

Science and Health counsels us to "Resist evil—error of every sort—and it will flee from you. Error is opposed to Life. We can, and ultimately shall, so rise as to avail ourselves in every direction of the supremacy of Truth over error, Life over death, and good over evil, and this growth will go on until we arrive at the fulness of God's idea." (p. 406)

The Bible tells us that God gave man dominion over the earth, and Science and Health clearly explains the way to claim this dominion. Man's eternal heritage is freedom and harmony. Let's claim it now, and enter into the "joy of our Lord."

Courage

Whence comes true courage,
But from thoughts of Thee.
The mists of earth can't hide
God's glorious Truth from me.

I'll walk with God, securely,
I'll never go in fear.
In faith I will stand fast,
And feel God's presence here.

Faith in Truth unchanging
Lifts man above the sod.
Understanding Truth's all power
Unites his thought with God.

Doris White Evans

Christian Science and the World

Doris White Evans

March 1993

The Bible says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Science and Health tells us, "The sharp experiences of belief in the supposititious life of matter, as well as our disappointments and ceaseless woes, turn us like tired children to the arms of divine Love. Then we begin to learn life in divine Science." (p. 322)

Millions of world-weary people have come to Christian Science, having found the things of the world so miserable and unsatisfying, that they are glad to turn away from them, to the things of God, to find refuge and peace.

However, as we begin to "learn life in divine Science," and turn away from the painful belief of life in matter, we must not become unconcerned about our fellow man. It's been said that Christian Scientists are "other-worldly" or not deeply concerned with present world conditions or their fellow man. This is often a reaction to the sad and unsatisfying conditions that bring people to Christian Science in the first place. From an intense love of material things, and the extreme fear that follows this idolatry, the unwary one may find himself with an unreal attitude that parrots, "All is well," while the world falls down around his ears. This uncaring attitude bodes ill for the one entertaining it. It does not express the love that is the "heart and soul" of Christian Science.

Mrs. Eddy warns Christian Scientists to keep themselves "unspotted from the world." But she does not mean that we should withdraw our tender concern for our fellow beings. Rather should we help to lift them out of the

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nightmare of material existence into the peace of God- filled living.

Only as we are deeply grateful to God for His many blessings, and wish to use what we have gained from Christian Science to help others, can we continue to be blessed.

The Plainfield Church has been reaching out to mankind for several years. We have had contact with thousands of people the world over. We have four thousand correspondents in Nigeria alone. We have mailed free gift copies of Science and Health and 'Healing Thoughts,' to all who have requested them. The result has been wonderful. People have been healed of disease, sin, and sorrow, and their lives have been blessed. We hear every day from these dear people. Their letters are filled with heart-felt gratitude, and a deep desire to study Christian Science, join our church, and be of service to God.

We never could have foreseen this wonderful happening. It was obviously God's loving plan for Christian Science to be made available to mankind everywhere, and not restricted to an ever dwindling group.

Let us continue to labor and to love. Independent Christian Science is prospering. Our church and its members are prospering. Life is inspiring, beautiful, and triumphant. How could it be otherwise with God leading us forward?

The Bible says, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." God's promise has been fulfilled, and we rejoice in the multitudes of sincere seekers for Truth who are rediscovering Mary Baker Eddy's pure Christian Science.

Trusting God

Doris White Evans

March 1993

The word trust brings with it a feeling of safety and peace. The Bible tells us, "Under His wings we are come to trust."

It's common knowledge that people usually trust, what they think has power. Webster defines trust as "assured reliance on the strength or truth of someone or something."

As we begin to learn through Christian Science that there is a loving God who is the source of all blessings, we become willing to trust His power. Through this trust we are able to let go of the fear and worry which would obscure God's healing love.

When people came to Jesus to be healed, he didn't ask how serious the disease was. Instead, he asked, did they believe that God could heal them? He knew that the power to heal was in God, and that when thought was brought into line with Him through trust, the divine power would operate in their lives.

Daniel wasn't overwhelmed by fear when thrown into a den of lions. He had proven his trust in God many times. Therefore, it was natural for him to put his trust in this God who had cared for him through the years. The result was absolute safety and deliverance. The Bible says, that "no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."

Trusting God isn't a passive, laid-back inaction, nor is it lukewarm, wishful thinking. It is alert, lively and always expectant of good. It declares that God's law is forever operating to bless man, and that there is no power to delay or defeat this law. It understands that there is no power that can resist wholehearted trust in Good.

People with long-standing problems often come to

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Christian Science and ask, How long must I trust in God before I see healing? Isaiah says, "Trust ye in the Lord forever." Trusting God is not a temporary thing, but a way of life. The blessings it brings are beyond measure. It is the consistency of trust that brings results. When one's consciousness is anchored in God's omnipotent goodness, his thinking is impervious to the invasion of evil's arguments.

As the prophet Nahum put it: "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him."

God has blessed us with Christian Science which provides man with a sure way out of trouble. The Bible prophets, Christ Jesus, and Mary Baker Eddy trusted God; and the results were marvelous. We can learn from their examples. And we can experience, here and now, the joy, health, and dominion, that trust in God bestows on man.

Love's Message

An angel voice rings down the years,
Awake, O man, and cease from fears,
For God, your God, is All-in-all;
He will not let you sin nor fall,
For you are in His image made,
Upright and free and unafraid.
Declare your freedom, claim its sign;
Then walk within His love divine.

The pure in heart see God in everything, and see Him everywhere; and they are supremely blessed.

John C. Holland

"Fight the Good Fight"

Doris White Evans

May 1993

Fight the good fight with all thy might," is the first line of a loved hymn. It expresses the spirit of true Christian Science. The motto of our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, was said to be "Prepare War." But, war on what? War on everything that would limit or afflict mankind.

Being a Christian Scientist is not a passive undertaking. It is an active way of life filled with the joy of accomplishing a holy purpose. It is totally unselfish. It reaches out to its brother man, and is genuinely helpful.

Nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished without hard work. The heartfelt desire to know and do the will of God is the greatest work that man can ever aspire to. The quiet satisfaction that obedience to God brings, can be likened to nothing else in human experience.

In Science and Health are words that encourage us to continue this battle: "Moral courage is 'the lion of the tribe of Juda,' the king of the mental realm. Free and fearless it roams in the forest. Undisturbed it lies in the open field, or rests in 'green pastures, . . . beside the still waters.'" (p. 514)

A heart moral and strong, filled with love for God and man, can move mountains.

In the allegorical story of the contest between the sun and the wind, the challenge was made to see who could first make a man remove his coat. The wind blew and blew but the man hugged his coat more closely about him. The sun came out and quietly just shone. The man soon removed his coat.

And so, the warmth of love, fueled by the conviction that God is the only power and presence, can remove any obstacle.

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Dear Mrs. Eddy never backed down before evil of any sort. She said, "Only when you know that evil is nothing can you prove it to be so." That is the essence of her great revelation, that God is All, and evil is nothing. It has no life, place, presence or power. Therefore, what is there to fear? The battle is not ours, but God's.

What God gives one to do, He directs and protects.

Louise Knight Wheatley

Expect the highest, the holiest and the best in every situation. It's your divine right to claim and possess it.

Stand fast. Don't be shaken by what evil is trying to tell you. Trust God.

There is no power that can resist wholehearted trust in Good.

There are no insurmountable problems. There's only victory, and joy, and glory.

Doris White Evans

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

Repeating and Defeating

Doris White Evans

May 1993

Our beloved Leader in speaking to a group of her students, at a time when they needed encouragement, said, "Do not be discouraged, dear ones. The work is not humdrum, it is growth. It is repeating and defeating, repeating and defeating, repeating and defeating."

Have you perhaps grown discouraged because the results you are seeking have not come quickly or easily? Then it might be well to consider the words of our Leader, and find out what the motive is for getting rid of the trouble.

If we are looking for a quick fix, and a continuation of the thought processes that allowed the trouble to develop in the first place, then Christian Science is not for us.

However, if we are willing to recognize the need for change, and understand that change takes effort, we are ready to start on the path to freedom that Christian Science offers.

Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health* (p. 162): "The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind."

Dropping old habits is never easy, but if our desire is to understand God, and be of service to Him, He will sustain us as we learn to discipline our thinking. Then we will not be thrown off when error starts to scream its noxious lies that would cause us to forget the great blessings that God has already bestowed upon us. Wallowing in the mud of evil's unholy suggestions of ingratitude, resentment and depression, culminates in lack of love for God and man, and defeats every holy purpose we may have cherished.

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Science and Health advises, "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." (p. 261)

Jesus invoked the law of God, and it was instantly effective in healing discord of every kind. He healed the sick, and raised the dead, because he held to the Truth, and walked steadfastly with God. Nothing could throw him off. His faithfulness gave him great power to do good.

In the words "repeating and defeating" Mrs. Eddy was showing her students the need for persistent effort, if they were to overcome evil's aggressive (but powerless) claims. Seeking to do God's will, always blesses man.

'Healing Thoughts' No. 33 contains a gem that relates closely to this fact: "All the forces of God's universe are co-operating with the man who seeks to do God's will." (George H. Moore)

Mrs. Eddy established a great movement through her steadfast love of God, and obedience to His precepts. She has given us the way to a better life, if we will follow her loving instructions.

And, so, dear one, if you seem to be beset by fearful odds, don't give up and go back to error. Remember, as one of our hymns concludes:

And behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow
Keeping watch above His own.

(Hymn No. 258)

You are "His own," and God is here, lovingly watching over those who sincerely seek to serve Him.

A Pure Christianity

Doris White Evans

July 1993

Christianity is the summons of divine Love for man to be Christlike—to emulate the words and the works of our great Master. It is a growth Christward.” (My. p. 148)

This growth is essential to those who sincerely wish to walk the straight and narrow path of the Christ.

When I was a teenager, a loved practitioner gave me a gift that has blessed me beyond measure, and helped me to obey “the summons of divine Love.” She instructed me to declare daily, “God is Mind, God is my Mind, God is the only pure Mind.”

I was told to declare these truths immediately upon awakening in the morning, as they would fill my consciousness with God’s power and presence, and close it to evil. For many years I declared these truths faithfully, not fully aware of the tremendous changes they were making in my thinking.

I had Joined a Christian Science church, and filled the positions of Sunday School Teacher, Clerk, Reader, and Practitioner. I became very busy in the practice, and had many remarkable healings recorded, including instances of the dead being brought back to life, several times witnessed to, and acknowledged by, medical authorities.

With all of this activity, I continued my morning declarations of “God is Mind, God is my Mind, God is the only pure Mind,” before doing the Lesson, as well as much other studying.

Only recently did I fully realize the immense power and far-reaching effect of these statements, when they are faithfully applied.

When the time came that Plainfield Christian Science Church was forced to become independent, we were without a source of Christian Science literature, since

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Boston refused to sell it to us. After a great deal of prayer, we decided to publish our own correct, healing literature. We were prepared for the innumerable details and hard work that this entailed, due to the disciplined thinking that derived its source from the one Mind.

The necessity for Class teaching soon followed, and produced a band of workers who fully appreciated Mrs. Eddy's mission, and were ready to serve her righteous Cause. They, too, were taught to claim God as their Mind.

In 1978, it became necessary to write our own Lesson Sermons, as we reluctantly recognized that the Lessons coming out of Boston were dull and uninspired. Often, they were even quite negative. A Lesson Sermon committee was established, and operated under the careful supervision of a Board, governed by the one Mind.

In May 1986, we published the first issue of 'Healing Thoughts' magazine, a humble little pamphlet with just ten pages. It was published every three months. Under God's direction, 'Healing Thoughts' has grown to a healing magazine of sixty large pages. It is now published bimonthly. On the alternate month, a love-filled newsletter is sent to our members, so that they may feel their close connection to their Church home, and the spiritual love that emanates from it.

This tremendous amount of work could only have been accomplished under God's unerring direction. The discipline shared by the faithful Christian Science practitioner so long ago, and faithfully adhered to, has enabled Plainfield Church to "grow Christward" and lead the way to independence and freedom for all mankind.

In Miscellany Mrs. Eddy says, "Press on. The way is narrow at first, but it expands as we walk in it." (p. 202) "A deep sincerity is sure of success, for God takes care of it." (p. 203) We have found this to be true.

The People that Walked in Darkness

Doris White Evans

July 1993

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” (Isaiah)

That was the state of humanity when Jesus Christ came upon the scene. Poverty, incurable disease and despair were rampant. Jesus presented something wonderful. Instead of the Jehovistic concept of God as a stern punisher, Jesus presented a God who loves, blesses and heals. Many accepted his words, and experienced what were considered miraculous healings. The sick were healed, and the dead raised, through his ministry.

About three hundred years after Jesus ascended, this healing power disappeared. It wasn't until the year 1866 that a woman, who was at the point of death, read her Bible, and was healed, through understanding just a little of God's power. This spiritually minded woman, Mary Baker Eddy, was not one to accept God's great blessing, and keep it to herself. She knew that she must share it with all mankind.

She was so inspired by God's revelation, that for three years she withdrew from society, studied her Bible, prayed, and listened for God's guidance. From that prayer and consecration, came the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

As a result of Mrs. Eddy's faithfulness, many people who had walked in darkness, read *Science and Health*, and began to see a great light. The sick were healed, and the dead raised, as in Jesus' time. People flocked to Christian Science. Churches were established all over the world. People who had given up hope of ever being

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healed, came to Christian Science, and found their answers. And with these answers, came a new way of life; a life filled with joy, hope, and a desire to share this marvelous revelation.

When Mrs. Eddy passed on in 1910, organization stealthily began to take the place of inspiration and love. Inevitably, a decline began, and churches everywhere closed. This sad situation accelerated until 1977, when a loyal branch church was forced by Boston to become independent.

The result of this unmerited action, based on totally untrue allegations, was that, free of the rigid restrictions placed upon Mrs. Eddy's revelation by the materially minded Boston hierarchy, the independent Christian Science movement began to grow, and many people throughout the world again began to see the great light of Truth. Science and Health, which had been restricted, was circulated to mankind everywhere. As people read it, healing again took place.

Inspired writings by the finest workers in Christian Science appeared in 'Healing Thoughts' magazine, published by the Plainfield Church. Many of these workers were taught by Mrs. Eddy. These treasures had been long buried by Boston, and were unavailable to the sincere seeker for Truth. Impersonal evil in this way sought to destroy Mrs. Eddy's holy mission.

Testimonies of healing through Christian Science began to abound in 'Healing Thoughts' magazine as thought was enlightened. Science and Health was sent all over the world. Mankind needs this book. It must be made available to them. Mrs. Eddy's intent was that Truth be shared.

And so, dear one, if you have seemed to walk in darkness, and have given up hope of being healed, take heart.

The People that Walked in Darkness

God's love for man has not ceased. The Bible promise is being fulfilled. The light of the Christ, in Christian Science, is again flooding the world, bringing hope and peace to struggling hearts.

Trust God's tender love. Have Christian Science treatment from an independent practitioner and expect to see "the salvation of the Lord with you." Your healing cannot be delayed or prevented.

Take courage of every experience, and power will be yours.

Edward A. Kimball

Remember, man's extremity is God's opportunity.

Mary Baker Eddy

When we turn to God and rest trustingly upon His bosom, we are safe in His Love, surrounded, protected and blessed.

I will declare that the Almighty God is my peaceful refuge and strong protection. I therefore dwell in absolute safety.

Love doesn't fail. God is right here, caring for us every moment.

Doris White Evans

Right must triumph because it is part of God's plan.

Mary Baker Eddy

God gives us the victory. Here and now!

Doris White Evans

God's Blessed Ideas

Doris White Evans

September 1993

In this age of medical technology, people are still vainly seeking answers to the problem of difficult and painful childbirth.

In Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy makes a wonderful statement regarding the birth of the spiritual idea. She says, "Its beginning will be meek, its growth sturdy, and its maturity undecaying." (p. 463)

This statement has been successfully applied to the conditions of childbirth. Many parents have been helped by declaring these truths about the child, during pregnancy.

"Its beginning will be meek:" The new child, or spiritual idea will be born peacefully, and without pain. It will be perfect, and will "cause the mother no more suffering," either before or after birth. It will be a harmonious addition to a happy home.

"Its growth sturdy:" This insures the natural, healthful unfoldment of God's idea, which can be neither underweight, sickly, nor hyperactive. And it will grow in the grace of God.

"Its maturity undecaying:" This new idea, born of God, exists at the standpoint of maturity. There can be no infantile behavior, only a calm and steady growth God-ward. There will be no states and stages of discord such as the "terrible two's." God's idea is a blessing at every stage of its progressive unfoldment.

These truths, faithfully applied, insure the harmonious transition of the idea from childhood to adulthood. They protect against false ideologies, immorality, drugging, etc. The child is freed to express his God-given individuality, and to be a force for good in this world.

A Christian Scientist who had much desired a child, and sincerely prayed about it, trusting God's harmonious

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plan, found that she was pregnant. She and her husband rejoiced in this answer to prayer. They called an independent practitioner, who asked them to work with the previously quoted statement from Science and Health, as well as a statement from the Bible: "I have made, and I will bear, even I will carry, and I will deliver you." (Isa.)

The parents recognized that this was to be a time of peace and spiritual growth, in preparation for the birth. When problems came up, they were quickly met with the practitioner's help, to ensure the perfect unfoldment of God's plan.

The birth took place quickly and harmoniously. The baby was beautiful, and the mother was up and about in two days. The child slept through the night at two weeks of age, enabling the parents to have normal rest. The birth and everything concerning it was a complete and perfect demonstration.

The same truths have also been applied successfully to the start of a new business. They establish the right idea of business, put it firmly on a spiritual basis, and hold it there, so that it may develop under God's direction. A business founded upon this Principle will grow, prosper, and succeed under God's blessing.

This statement has been loved, and applied by Plainfield members concerning our church. It has blessed it immeasurably, and enabled it to develop and grow under God's direction and protection.

Science and Health contains countless statements of Truth that will move any mountain of error. When applied with humble trust, they never fail to heal.

Should you be having trouble finding answers to your problems, contact a Plainfield practitioner. We are sure you can be helped. We will be delighted to hear from you.

Bumps or Blessings

Doris White Evans

November 1993

We learn in Christian Science that the outcome of our experiences is determined largely by what we think about them. A Christian Science worker once said, "In life, we have every experience we need for our growth and blessing." Therefore, when an unfortunate situation occurs, we take a positive attitude towards it, and expect to see a blessing. Thus we have started on our way to solving the problem.

When problems are seen as opportunities for spiritual growth, and not as afflictions, we can face them with confidence, knowing that the hand of God is upon us, and that the problem would never have appeared, if we were not ready for the progress it will bring.

If, on the other hand, we mourn, complain, and wonder why this trouble has come upon us, we prolong the difficulty, and give it continuance. We rob ourselves of an opportunity to grow Godward and be blessed.

An excellent remedy for mourning and complaint is gratitude. One of our hymns says, "Our gratitude is riches, complaint is poverty." There's no room for trouble in a grateful heart. The light of love dissolves it. How important then, to demand a blessing from every experience.

A woman who had had many blessings from Christian Science, developed a bad habit of complaining if her problems were not healed at once. A practitioner from whom she had had much effective help, explained to her that the purpose of problems is to help us to grow spiritually, and that, if we are peaceful, patient, and expectant, the healing will surely come. As is the case so often with human thought, the woman resented the fact that she needed to grow spiritually.

And then she was hit with a serious physical problem

Bumps or Blessings

which put her flat on her back in bed with a diagnosis of certain death.

At that point, she called the practitioner and humbly asked for help to grow Godward.

The healing was not immediate. But as the woman learned to be grateful for God's love, and not to be a complainer, improvement came. Many times, she was tempted to return to the old way of thinking, but the results were so painful, that she soon gave this up, and was grateful for the invaluable lessons she was learning.

When the healing was complete, a new woman came forth; one who was clear-eyed, grateful and joyous. She then became a splendid, selfless worker in the Father's vineyard. The bumps were well worth it, for they had brought a tremendous blessing.

Mrs. Eddy says, "When these things cease to bless they will cease to occur." (My. 143) So why not approach our problems as blessings in disguise? Then we can face them without resentment, and see them as opportunities for victory over the carnal mind, and its spurious suggestions of evil.

Mrs. Eddy once said, "Don't be satisfied with one victory, but add victory upon victory." She also said in *Miscellaneous Writings*, "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." (p. 118)

Life as a working Christian Scientist should be a life of joy and triumph, earned through persistent application of the truths taught in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings. These never fail when properly applied. It's our privilege to do this, and with God's help, we most certainly can!

Salvation

Doris White Evans

January 1994

Much has been written about salvation. A dictionary defines it, in part, as deliverance from danger and difficulty. But how can we find this deliverance? Are we doomed to keep repeating the same mistakes, or is there a way out of trouble?

In writing about those who take up the study of Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy says, they "must obey implicitly each and every injunction of the divine Principle of life . . . , or repeat their work in tears."

The worthwhile things in this life do not come to us on a silver platter. They must be worked for. And this work requires a change in our thinking.

Mrs. Eddy gives sound counsel as to how to go about this. She writes, "The human heart, like a feather bed, needs often to be stirred, sometimes roughly, and given a variety of turns, else it grows hard and uncomfortable whereon to repose." (Mis. Wr. p. 127)

Are we willing to overturn our thinking, and let go of the dangerous habits of thought which have bound us to sin, sickness and trouble? Or haven't things gotten bad enough for us to let go of the wrong thinking which has never blessed us?

There is no other way out of trouble. Since our experience is a direct result of what we are entertaining in thought, no changes can come about, unless we are willing to change our thinking.

Christian Science shows us how to do this. Mrs. Eddy provided a Lesson Sermon, which is studied first thing in the morning each day. It consists of inspiring passages from the Bible and our textbook, Science and Health. These citations direct our thought to the good and positive aspects of life. They teach man that he need not be a

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victim of life's vicissitudes, but that through God's love, he can claim his dominion over every form of trouble. He learns that with God's help he can control his thinking, keeping it stayed on "the enduring, the good and the true," (S&H p. 261) and bring these into his experience, as he holds faithfully to what he understands of God's law of harmony.

Salvation isn't a thing far off. It's a present possibility. We can rejoice that there is a law of God which will release us from evil's bondage, and bring us into the glorious kingdom of God.

Salvation is defined in Science and Health as, "Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness, and death destroyed." (p. 593)

Christian Science shows us the way. As we faithfully walk in it, and obey God's precepts, we will demonstrate, with increasing power, our dominion over evil in all its forms, and feel the unspeakable peace that comes from walking humbly with God.

Listen

Words of God flow through my mind,
Like a river cool and clear:
"Thou art My son, My beloved son,
Whom I hold so dear.
I will bless thee,
I will keep thee,
Beneath My sheltering wing.
Be still, My son, and listen,
While My chorus of angels sings!"

Art Anker

Why Independent Christian Science?

Doris White Evans

March 1994

People all over the world are searching for answers to the serious problems facing them.

In spite of advances in modern medicine, incurable disease is rampant. In the field of psychology, a recent article reports that the theories of Freud and Jung are being discredited and declared passé, as have phrenology and mesmerism. The practice of hypnotic regression is being called a fraud, as it is being proved that many of the cases of sexual abuse, recalled by adults, just did not happen. Drugs for the cure of depression abound, but they are now being found to be addictive, and to cause severe side effects. Poverty is a world problem.

Is there an answer? We believe that there is. If so, where can we find it?

The Bible comforts us with the promise, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even for ever." The Bible has been called the chart of life, and people have long turned to it for answers.

In 1866 Mary Baker Eddy did just that, and was healed, when on her death bed, while reading the healings of Jesus. For three years after her healing, she searched the Scriptures and prayed for an understanding of the power that had restored her to life. Her work culminated in the publication of a book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. This book has healed millions of people throughout the world. It contains practical rules for healing. It shows the way to overcome trouble of

Why Independent Christian Science?

every kind. Those who have studied it, have found a new way of life, one free from the harassing fears and limitations which beset humankind.

The members of Plainfield Christian Science Church are a group of independent thinkers. Plainfield Church has no connection with the church in Boston. We get our answers from God, and not from a hierarchy out of touch with modern reality.

Our members are free to seek medical aid, should they feel that they are unable to heal their problems through prayer. We are aware of the unpleasant situations Boston members have found themselves in when they have denied their children medical help. That could never happen in Plainfield, as our members are free to follow the dictates of their own hearts. Because our families are not bound by fear of hierarchical condemnation, our children have been healed quickly and permanently through Christian Science treatment, alone.

The proof that spiritual independence works, is the enormous amount of healing going on in Plainfield. Disease of every name and nature has been cured. Poverty has been overcome. Happy relationships are the normal thing.

How do we do it? We study the Bible and Science and Health daily. This turns our thinking to God. Our thoughts are positive, expecting good, and we find this good on every side.

Jesus said, "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." We have found this freedom, and it's wonderful. We'd like to see you find it, too. Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health, "It is not well to imagine that Jesus demonstrated the divine power to heal only for a select

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number or for a limited period of time, since to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good.” (p.494)

There’s no limitation that can be laid on any child of God. God is always ready and willing to help, and heal us, when we turn to Him in the right way.

Let us help you to find that right way, and the wonderful freedom it brings.

There’s nothing in this universe that is outside of God’s love and care. There is no impossible situation.

Doris White Evans

Depression belongs not to the child of God. It is not real and can’t affect one when his motives are right.

Edward A. Kimball

Every man has a joyous work ahead of him, and the Christ-power wherewith to accomplish it.

Kate W. Buck

Because the power to do good is of God and not of ourselves, we should know that whatever He requires of us, we are able to perform.

Samuel Greenwood

Be receptive to the voice of Truth, which is forever declaring the glory and peace of God to all mankind.

There’s nothing God can’t do.

Serving God brings absolute safety.

Love stands for what it believes.

Doris White Evans

The Word of God goes forth with power and effect.

Louise Knight Wheatley

God's Plan

Doris White Evans

March 1994

God has a plan for each and every one of His beloved children. And yes, you are a beloved child of God. It doesn't matter what you may have done, or how many mistakes you may have made, God still loves you. No one is ever beyond God's tender love and care.

The Bible is filled with assurances of the blessings that come when we trust God. It tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."

Jesus acknowledged God in all his ways, and walked with Him continually. He trusted implicitly in God's perfect plan for all mankind, and because of this absolute trust, he healed everyone who came to him for help. Trust in God's plan brings wonderful results.

Have you been disappointed and discouraged by a lack of progress and healing in your life? Is trouble overwhelming you? Don't despair. God has a blessing waiting for you. Trust Him. Put your life in His hands, and let His perfect plan unfold.

Independent Christian Science shows us the way to do this. Science and Health comforts us with its first sentence: "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, today is big with blessings." (p. vii) The keyword in this sentence is "leaning." Are we truly willing to give up our educated, and often strong-willed outlining, and trust the loving God who cares for all? Are we willing to lean on Him with an open, receptive thought, and hear what God has to say to us?

We've all been tempted to pray to God for a specific thing, and when it wasn't forthcoming, to feel disap-

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pointed, and resentful, because we felt our prayers weren't answered. Perhaps God has something much better for us than we could have envisioned.

Throughout the ages, those who have trusted God's plan have had glorious proofs of His care. Our magazine 'Healing Thoughts' contains convincing testimonies of the power of righteous prayer. Even if you feel that you are beyond help, God can take care of the situation. Don't give up. Call a Plainfield practitioner and start on the path to freedom. It's God's plan for all of us.

Lean on God. Trust Him. Understand Him, and He will give you foresight, wisdom and a capacity to execute His will, and show forth His name.

Read the Bible and Science and Health daily, and pray the prayer of our Lord in your own words. Ask for His kingdom to come, for Love, Truth and Life to govern all your desires, aims and motives; to feed you with faith and with a clear knowledge of good.

To affirm anything is to assert its possibility, to assert it even in the face of all contrary evidence, and by affirming that to be true, but which to all human reasoning or sight seems not to be true at all, you can bring it to pass.

Mary Baker Eddy

"The Lord on High"

Doris White Evans

May 1994

When I was starting out in Christian Science, I had a practitioner who always gave me something to work with, when I called for help. One of these things was a Bible verse, "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." She quoted this verse to me many times, and I memorized it, and made it my own. It always helped and healed me.

Christian Science teaches that God's power is greater than any trouble that can come upon us. God can take us through it safely.

No one can go through this life without having to meet the sorrows and problems that come up. But there is a way to overcome them. The way, is to hold fast to God. Hold to the statement, "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters." As we keep thought stayed on God, we can't be overwhelmed, and drift into fear and the expectancy of evil. Evil won't come, if we don't allow it. We have to consent to its lies, and let them into our thinking.

Listening to God keeps us calm. God speaks to the thought that is peaceful. Maintain your peace, no matter what the devil is saying. The peaceful thought is receptive to God's messages, to His loving guidance, and absolute protection.

Thank God that we have the Bible with its inspired verses that heal. In moments of stress, a Bible verse will suddenly come and lift you up above the error, so that you aren't fooled by whatever the devil is trying to tell you. Whatever is bad, has no God in it, and we don't have to accept it. Everything that's good, is from God, and continues forever. It's as simple as that, and there's no in-between.

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We find many healing Bible verses in our Lesson each day. They comfort us, and lift us out of trouble. As we study, and memorize them, they will come back to us when we need them.

Christian Science isn't a religion of passivity. It's a religion of standing firmly for what you believe. Stand up, and wave your banner of righteousness, and be joyous while you're doing it. You have so much to be joyous about.

It's a blessing to walk through life with God at our side, and to have the comfort and love of a group of people who are thinking the same way. Plainfield Church is a loving group of people who care about humanity, and who help each other to uphold the Truth about God and man. If anyone falls, we lift him up, and go on together, proving Mrs. Eddy's wonderful statement, "The higher Truth lifts her voice, the louder will error scream, until its inarticulate sound is forever silenced in oblivion." (S&H p. 97)

Work Together

Let us one in Spirit be,
Bound in peace and unity,
One in hope of eternal Life,
Shielded and safe from mortal strife.
Turning away from gloom to light,
Shunning error's sinful night.
Aiding our Leader's holy cause; Working
by Heaven's holy laws.

Burdened Thought

Doris White Evans

July 1994

Big women ran in my family. My grandmother was big, my mother was big, and after a while, I was big. And I didn't realize that it was a type of thinking.

Many times an obese condition can be a condition of leaning; leaning on something other than God. I remember in the early years of my marriage, my husband said to me, "Will you please find something besides me to be interested in!" I knew it was God speaking through him, and I did! I found God, and I found Christian Science.

But that wasn't all of it. I was seriously overweight, and losing weight took work. It took consciously handling this belief of fat. I'd gotten to be a size twenty. I used to look at myself in the mirror from the waist up, and think I looked all right. They say people do that quite often, and don't realize what the rest of them looks like. But when I realized that I was fat, and that the weight wasn't going to go away miraculously, overnight, and that I was going to have to change my thinking habits, I turned to God. Three statements came to me that helped immensely. First: When I was hungry, I asked myself, "Is this hunger or is it appetite?" If it was not genuine hunger, then it was appetite, which was merely amusing myself with food, and it was ungodlike. Second: I found that what satisfied me was paraphrasing a verse from Mrs. Eddy's hymn 30, "Fed by Thy love divine I live." So, any time I was tempted by false appetite, I declared that I was fed and satisfied by divine Love. The third statement was: God proportions me.

The weight fell off, with ease, and without dieting. Dieting is believing that there's life and intelligence in matter, and the results are never permanent. With overweight there's something much deeper that needs to be

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healed. As I found the weight coming off, I found something else happening. I found that this dear, good husband, with whom I'd been living, was bearing much of the weight of the burden, that I had believed was my own.

As I began to change my thinking, my body naturally began to change. My life became better, so much more joyous, so much freer. I found myself going from a size 20 to a size 8. And that's obviously the size God wanted me to be, because I've stayed there for the last twenty years, without effort, and certainly without attention to calories or food. This healing came about when I learned to lean on God, and not look to any human situation for satisfaction; to put all my trust in Spirit, and to put God first, so that nothing distorted could be part of my experience. I learned that man is neither too fat nor too thin, just normal and natural, as God made him.

I'm grateful, when I think about it today, to realize what a wonderful, natural, easy healing it was. And what a blessing it must have been to my husband, to have gotten rid of someone who was looking to him all the time for what he couldn't give. It was up to God to give it. And God has, and we have a much happier marriage than we did when I was a burdened mortal.

Christian Science goes into every part of our lives. There isn't anything inharmonious that can stand when we sincerely desire to know what God thinks about it, and what God wants us to do. God's thoughts are ever available. They're all around us. We only have to open our ears and listen to the good and wonderful things that God is saying. Thank God that Mrs. Eddy listened and gave us this wonderful truth, Christian Science.

Ageless Being

Doris White Evans

September 1994

Working for God keeps us young. That is being clearly proven in the Plainfield Christian Science Church. There are no aging forms, sour looks or disabled people. We are living proof of the fact that obedience to God, and abiding by Mrs. Eddy's words, "Work, work, work, watch and pray," keeps us happy, well, and strong.

The lie of old age is widely touted in the newspapers and on television. Are we going to agree with this lie, or will we take a radical stand for what Christian Science teaches us about man? We've learned that man is made in the image and likeness of God. Does God get old? Do His faculties fail? Does Life come to an end?

If we are sitting around in our homes expecting that the grim reaper will eventually come to our door, we'd better wake up. Wake up to ageless being! There's good work to be done for God. Christian Science needs to be revitalized. There's no time for moldering in the mists of mortal mind, when there's such an opportunity to bless mankind. There's no greater joy than in doing God's holy work. Defeat the lie of old age. "Rise in rebellion against" it. (S&H p. 391) God never made such a thing, and if He didn't ordain it, it hasn't been done!

Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health, "Man in Science is neither young nor old." (p. 244) "Never record ages." (p. 246) "Men and women of riper years and larger lessons ought to ripen into health and immortality, instead of lapsing into darkness or gloom." (p. 248)

A Christian Science worker established the practice of daily declaring, "I am ageless, diseaseless and deathless, because God made me so." As a result, he stayed young and active throughout his joyous long life. He was

living proof that the vigorous, persistent declaration of the truth about God and man, keeps us free from the encroachments of mortal mind.

Working and praying for a holy cause is the most vigorous and uplifting adventure man can have. Each day is filled with new joy and promise. There's no time for the negative thoughts which open the door to this universal false belief of age.

Accept God's blessing. It is resting upon you right now. Open your heart, and enter into the joy of your Lord. Stay young with us. We'd love to have you join us.

A Morning Prayer

Dear Father, may I live today
To see Your goodness here.
I pray for light to do Your will,
That I may hear the "Peace, be still,"
Which conquers doubt and fear.

With confidence in Love's all-power
I stand serene and say:
The loveliness of Love around
Encircles me, and I abound
With gratitude today.

William Cotterill

Rest in the Lord

Doris White Evans

November 1994

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.” These words from the Bible have brought comfort to people throughout the ages. Resting in the Lord presents a picture of peaceful trust, similar to the words of the Twenty- Third Psalm: “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.”

A helpful definition of patience is “confident expectancy of good.” A peaceful consciousness hears God’s loving messages, and trusts God’s plan to unfold in His good time.

In recent times, with the invention of TV, and of instant communication, a subtle change has come about in the thinking of humanity. Instant gratification is the order of the day. We are faced with an age of rush and frustration. People want an instant fix for whatever ails them, failing to realize that there may be a need to change their thinking and habits.

An experienced Christian Science practitioner told of the following experience. A woman came into her office, full of complaints. She was sick, and everything was wrong in her life. The practitioner said, “Yes, dear, I know. But for the past three weeks you have been in a state of constant irritation concerning a situation in your life. You have dwelt upon it constantly. That irritation is what is causing your body to act inharmoniously and the people around you to be disturbed.”

The woman was startled by these words, but she was humble and wise enough to listen to this loving counsel. As she changed her thinking and habits, turning to God for guidance, and patiently learning to maintain her trust in good, she was healed.

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The Bible warns us, "Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." Are we going to take the bait when error comes at us and tells us to become disturbed about some unpleasant situation, and let it rob us of our health and peace? Or are we going to maintain our peace, "rest (trust) in the Lord," and be safe?

Resting in the Lord requires active trust. Trust includes enthusiasm, backbone, love for God, and our fellow man. It also includes correction of the evil, while understanding that it is no part of God's man. In this way we remain undisturbed by evil's mesmeric pictures. Criticism and faultfinding absolutely prevent trust in God.

The Bible promises, "The Lord knoweth the days of the upright (those who love and trust God), and their inheritance shall be forever." Inheritance of what? Of all good; of health, of happiness, of success in whatever endeavors God may provide.

The Bible also promises, "He performeth the thing that is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him." When we feel burdened and think that we can't possibly go any farther because we have so much to do, why not remember this Bible promise? "He performeth the thing that is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him."

"I drop my burden at His feet, and bear a song away" is the excellent counsel of a Christian Science hymn. Why not trust God's good plan, and find the peace it will bring?

God is never going to run out of good, because God is eternal goodness. God is never going to run out of blessings, because that is the business of God, the blessing business. He cares for and blesses us when we let Him.

Rest in the Lord

Therefore, rest in God, wait patiently (actively trusting), and "see the salvation of the Lord with us."

Mrs. Eddy defines salvation as: "Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness, and death destroyed." (S&H p. 593) A loved hymn says, "God's promises are kept." We believe this, and we see it proven every day.

Come prove it with us.

Learn to be calm, peaceful and serene under all circumstances, because that is the way to hold error in check.

Bicknell Young

Since our experience is a direct result of what we are entertaining in thought, no changes can come about unless we are willing to change our thinking.

Are my thoughts beautiful images that I would like to see externalized in my life?

Let no disturbing thought remain in consciousness. Keep your mind filled with Godlike thoughts of health, harmony, and happiness.

Doris White Evans

When animal magnetism has done its worst, it has done nothing.

Mary Baker Eddy

The peaceful consciousness that trusts in God, is cared for by Him.

Doris White Evans

Blessed Christmas

Doris White Evans

January 1995

Christmas is the gift of God. It commemorates the coming of the Christ to a world in need of its healing message of hope and joy. It needs to be seen in its true light.

Christmas, to the worker in Truth, is a time of peaceful rejoicing, and spiritual meditation. There is no harried rushing from store to store, buying gifts that people often neither need nor want. Pressured shopping, wild parties and unreal excitement are a travesty of the Bible words, "On the earth, peace, good will to men."

Christmas can be a time of disappointment and depression to the unwary one, who lets himself get caught up in the swirling currents of the human mind, which offer him glittering promises of joy, and then abruptly drop him into an abyss of sorrow and despair.

Christian Science presents a clear view of this blessed season, and a remedy for the depression that would afflict mankind. It keeps us safe from the confusion, selfishness, and forced gaiety of materialism, which hide from man the harmony and peace of the Christ appearing.

Mrs. Eddy has given wise counsel in the words, "I love to observe Christmas in quietude, humility, benevolence, charity, letting good will towards man, eloquent silence, prayer and praise express my conception of Truth's appearing."

A quiet feeling of love and gratitude for the coming of the Christ to all mankind is a powerful counteraction to any longing for days long gone by. We have the present moment in which to live, and send the healing Christ message to all the world. There's no greater joy than in serving God. Let's hold fast the great blessing God has given us and not let error interfere with its beauty.

Blessed Christmas

In Plainfield Church we have a beautiful candlelight service on Christmas Eve. It's a holy time, with families coming together to worship God, and rejoice in the love of Christ. The Reader begins the service by reading the Bible account of Jesus' birth, and follows it with inspiring selections from Mrs. Eddy's little book, "What Christmas Means to Me."

The congregation rises and sings Christmas carols and hymns from our hymnal. Finally, a large group of members file onto the platform, each one holding a lighted candle. In the front row we see the sweet faces of our younger children, whose pure voices rise in praise to God and His Christ. Our chorus is a large one, and all of the voices blend beautifully. After singing several Christmas carols and Mrs. Eddy's lovely hymn "Blest Christmas Morn," the chorus gives a rousing rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus." It's done with such enthusiasm and love that it almost takes the roof off the church.

The Reader reads a peaceful benediction, and we file out silently, in awe of the holy spirit of Truth and Love that we feel all around us.

Friend greets friend, with sincere love, in the foyer. We rejoice, and thank God who has given us Christian Science and this wonderful church. We return to our homes in the peace of God.

The call of Christmas is a call to leave our own way and the world's way and to take the way of Christ. This is our high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Dr. Charles Brown

Eve and the Serpent

Doris White Evans

March 1995

The Bible teaches many valuable lessons. The Old Testament tells of a people who continually made mistakes. It begins in Genesis with Adam and Eve. In this little fable, Eve was in the Garden of Eden, and God told her, "Don't eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden." Eve accepted this. But, then, along came a friendly, charming serpent, who said to her, in a confidential tone, "Eve, did God really say you shouldn't eat the fruit of the garden?" And that's where Eve made her first big mistake. Instead of saying, vigorously, "Yes, God did say that! Get out of here! You're up to no good, and I won't listen!", she turned, and doubted her ability to hear God's voice. The serpent continued talking, knowing that she was listening and, therefore, partially mesmerized. It then became more aggressive, and ended boldly saying, "Who is your God anyway? Is He really all-powerful? Do you have to obey Him?"

This is what mesmerism is all about. The serpent mesmerized Eve, because she stopped to listen to it. She should have resisted immediately. And where did Eve finally find herself? Spiritually naked, outside the Garden of Eden, stripped of all the good she had been given. Well, frankly, I don't think any of us want to find ourselves in that position.

This story is an object lesson for mankind. When the serpent voice begins to whisper, "Who do you think you are? You're not much good. You may have done something right once, but next time you'll fail. God doesn't even know you." Don't listen! Put it out! Put it out! The first whisperings of the serpent may not seem too bad, but as they go on, they get worse. So why let it start, and take the chance of being mesmerized by some scurrilous lie?

Who's talking, when you hear a negative suggestion? Is it God who loves you? I think not. When you hear this

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negative conversation about yourself, or about someone you're associated with, put it out! It wants you to think wrongly about things, because it's a well known fact that we receive what we believe. Let's refuse to be victims. God has given us dominion, and the power to overcome these lies.

These Old Testament stories are examples for us of the unreliability of the human mind, and show the mistakes that it can make. The remedy for this, is Christian Science. The truth about these Bible stories is revealed in Mrs. Eddy's book, *Science and Health*. It teaches us that we are God's children, created for His glory. We are not mortals, condemned to suffer.

The power of God is great enough to bring any wall of error down. Mrs. Eddy says, "Everything good or worthy, God made. Whatever is valueless or baneful, He did not make,—hence its unreality." (S&H p. 525) This helpful statement annuls evil's rantings.

Don't listen to the serpent voice that tells you, "I'm just one. What can I do?" One with God is a majority. You can do everything, if you will line yourself up with Him, let Him be the power, trust Him, hold fast to good; and never give up. Often when we are on the verge of winning, error will say, "Give up." And that's the very time to put it out! Keep on keeping on, and tell error where to go! God gives us the victory, here and now.

Mrs. Eddy gives us a wonderful promise in *Miscellaneous Writings*: "He who has named the name of Christ, who has virtually accepted the divine claims of Truth and Love in divine Science, is daily departing from evil; and all the wicked endeavors of suppositional demons can never change the current of that life from steadfastly flowing on to God, its divine source." (p. 19)

Truth, the Remedy

Doris White Evans

May 1995

It has been said that the end of a century brings periods of upheaval and restlessness. And that is what we are seeing now. But we have the remedy for it. It's given in a Bible verse, "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." That gift is Christian Science. It's the good gift that has been given to us by God, to love and to heal with.

The Bible also promises that with God there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. God is a loving God. Our beloved Art Anker, who has written a fine article on Love, quotes Mrs. Eddy in Science and Health, "The heart and soul of Christian Science is love." And then he goes on to say, "To me, Christian Science is Love."

And that's what Plainfield Christian Science Church is all about: Pure love; love being lived, not just talked. As a result, we are proving God's healing power, and prospering because of it. We've learned to give God our whole hearts.

Often people think they've given their hearts to God, but when they're tested, they falter.

When you're tested, do you complain, and say, "God, why did You let this happen to me? Why do I have to meet this problem?" Or do you declare at once, "Father, if there is something that I need to learn to serve You better, I will do it joyfully, without complaint. I have dominion through You, and I will claim a blessing from this experience." There's always an answer, and we're finding it through prayer in Christian Science. There's always a blessing, too, in each experience.

The Bible says, "You must be born again." We are born into a new life of joy and spiritual power as we drop the past with its bad habits; the irritations, the sorrows, the turning away from Truth, and the suffering that re-

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suits from it. Be willing to walk with God and faithfully serve Him. The Bible says, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must we lift up the Christ." And that means, lift your thought to God, and live a life of love, so that you do not perish. The Bible is explicit: Love God and serve Him, and you will not perish.

Jesus understood God's requirement for successful service. He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing. The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." Jesus knew that he was not alone; that God was with him every moment.

If ever we're feeling burdened or overworked, we're accepting the suggestion of evil, that we're doing something separate from God. If Jesus, the greatest man who ever lived, said, "I can of mine own self do nothing," can we do less? He made this statement to help us, so that we can follow in his footsteps.

Jesus cautioned, "Search the Scriptures, for in them is eternal life." How inspired Mrs. Eddy was to give us a Lesson Sermon which includes readings from the Scriptures along with Science and Health, so that we may find freedom from the disturbances of human existence.

The Bible tells us that there is a diversity of gifts, but that the same spirit works in us all. It's the spirit of Love. This spirit causes all things to work together for good. That's what spiritual unity in Christian Science is all about. It's putting selfish desires aside; and working for the glory of God, and the good of mankind. This will keep us peaceful and safe during this period of transition.

We have the remedy for the troubles facing mankind. It's up to us to use it. A first step is gratitude for Christian Science and its Founder, Mary Baker Eddy. "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." (II Cor.)

Becoming More Familiar with Good

Doris White Evans

July 1995

In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy cautions us to "become more familiar with good than with evil, and guard against false beliefs as watchfully as we bar our doors against the approach of thieves and murderers." (p. 234)

We can ask ourselves, right now, "What is the state of my consciousness? Am I happy and peaceful? Is my life taking a direction in which I can find Godly fulfillment?" If not, perhaps we have been listening to the chatter of mortal mind, which constantly suggests that some form of evil is real and powerful.

A basic teaching of Christian Science is the allness of God and the nothingness of evil. This teaching negates the lying suggestions of evil. Christian Science is not a religion of empty words, but of active demonstration.

An important statement Mrs. Eddy makes in Science and Health enables us to do the demonstrating of Truth that Science makes possible: "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." (p. 261) This is a statement of absolute Truth, and properly applied, acts unfailingly in man's experience.

Evil will argue persuasively that the world is in deep trouble, and that we can't hope to find more than a small amount of good, which may be followed by a great amount of evil. Do we have to accept these lies? No!! Put them out with vigor and conviction! God is not telling you these things. Then who is? It's all the babble of mortal mind, evil or devil.

The Bible tells us that God has given man dominion. Dominion over what? Dominion over his thinking, for

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that's where the answer to every problem lies. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs)

Christian Science teaches us to think loving thoughts, courageous thoughts, victorious thoughts. "Victory is mine, saith the Lord." That's God's promise. Walking close to God, being "more familiar with good than with evil," guarding against false beliefs with steadfast watchfulness, allows the full radiance and power of Truth to enter our experience and overturn all that is not right.

God has given us the keys to the kingdom of heaven. The study and practice of Christian Science will allow us to enter in. Mrs. Eddy says, "A deep sincerity is sure of success, for God takes care of it." (My. p. 203)

If you have been praying sincerely over a problem, trust God more. Truth will surely destroy error. Sometimes things don't happen overnight, but if we are steadfast, and refuse to give in to evil's lying suggestions, we will win. Christian Science has a long record of healing every disease and trouble known to man. "Love never faileth." As we hold fast to the good, it will externalize in our lives, and we will find the peace, joy and dominion which is man's true heritage, given to him by his loving Father-Mother God.

Reflection

Happy is he whose only aim,
Is God's great love to share;
Joyful is he who knows none else But
goodness everywhere;
Peaceful is he who trusts his God And
leaves all to His care.

Elizabeth Higgs

Unnatural Reluctance

Doris White Evans

September 1995

In *Science and Health* (p. 420), Mrs. Eddy wisely advises Christian Scientists, "If students do not readily heal themselves, they should early call an experienced Christian Scientist to aid them. If they are unwilling to do this for themselves, they need only to know that error cannot produce this unnatural reluctance."

Why this "unnatural reluctance"? Consider the situation of a hypnotist who has put his subject nicely under hypnotic control. The subject would object vigorously if someone came along to break the spell. The hypnotist's control over the subject would then be ended, the dream would be over, and the person would be free to assume his normal, healthy mental state.

Mrs. Eddy recognized that sin, sickness, trouble and the like, were hypnotic mental conditions, in which the victim loses the power to think for himself and becomes easy prey to anything the hypnotist (error) suggests.

How can we resist this wicked attempt of error to dispossess us of our heritage, to think and act rightly?

An important step, given by a wise Christian Science worker is: "Be so instant in Truth, that error is always too late." When erroneous suggestions are squashed at their first appearing, they don't have a chance to grow, and afflict man with their lying claims. All evil wants us to do, is listen to it for a moment, and then, it pounces on us. Be too wise to let that happen.

A deep love for God, and gratitude for Christian Science, which has shown us a way out of the misery of human experience, is essential if we are to be that instant worker who refuses to be taken in by the aggressive suggestions of family, national or world discord.

As a young mother, I took class with a loving Boston Teacher. At the end of the class, I wondered if that was all

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there was to Science. The goodness of God was emphasized, but we were taught very little about handling evil. I had a very unrealistic and dangerous attitude that I knew all there was to know about Truth, and didn't need practitioner help. When a severe problem arose, I consulted with this dear Teacher, who was unable to help me. It was at that point that I realized that Christian Science wasn't all hearts and flowers, and that I would have to study, and work as I never had before. I humbly called a consecrated practitioner who gave me verses from the Bible and citations from Science and Health to study. I was also given a copy of "Teaching and Addresses," by Edward A. Kimball. My eyes were opened to the nature and operation of evil. I studied the book, and worked, as I never had before. I began to understand the allness and goodness of God, and the nothingness of evil. This teaching taught me that I had dominion over every lying suggestion that evil, devil, could put forth. As I pondered the truths I'd learned, and worked patiently with the practitioner, I was completely healed.

Satan is, and always has been, a liar, as an old Gospel song tells us. Its only hope is to get us to believe its wicked rantings, and thus be hypnotized into inaction and submission to its doom and gloom suggestions.

Science and Health gives us a wonderful remedy for this trash of mortal mind (p. 393), "Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man."

If you are laboring with a problem that hasn't been healed, take heart, call a Plainfield practitioner, and claim your freedom in the name of Almighty God. The operation of Truth is as certain as the sunrise. You will not be left comfortless.

A Correct View

Doris White Evans

November 1995

An American who was traveling in Italy was anxious to see a famous statue that he had heard wonderful things about. When the day arrived, he was taken to the place where the statue stood. As he gazed at this famous work of art, he wondered what people had seen in it, for it was very ordinary. As he stood there, remarking on his great disappointment, a little boy approached him and said, "Sir, you aren't looking at it right. You must step forward, kneel down, and look up." The man did as the child suggested, and found himself looking into the most beautiful face he had ever seen.

What a great lesson is to be learned from this little story. How often a fine opportunity is offered to us, and we fail to "step forward" and take it. Thus, we let it pass us by, and miss the blessing that was to be given.

"Kneeling down" denotes humility. It takes a humble heart to pause, and listen to God. In her inspired article "The Way," (Mis. Wr. p. 356) Mrs. Eddy says, "The second stage of mental development is humility. This virtue triumphs over the flesh. Humility is lens and prism to the understanding of Mind-healing; it must be had to understand our textbook; it is indispensable to personal growth." The humble heart is receptive to God's leading, and faithful in following.

And finally: "Look up." Science and Health tells us that, "expectation speeds our progress." (p. 426) When we pray to our loving Father-Mother God, do we expect that He will hear us and meet our need? A negative expectancy never got anyone anywhere. The human mind is always negative. It sees doom around every corner. It's a pretty good indication of which mind we are letting govern us, if we do not expect good. Christian Science teaches us that good is natural, and evil is unnatural. As faith-

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ful workers in God's service, we don't have time to listen to error's negative suggestions, as they always lead to trouble.

Christian Science is a positive and inspired way of life. Science and Health tells us that, "good and its sweet concords have all power." (p. 130) Through consistent study of our inspired textbook, we learn how to discipline thought, and shut out the negative pictures presented by newspapers, T.V. and the like. We are ready to "step forward" and accept the fresh ideas that divine Mind presents to us. In love and gratitude we "kneel down" in humility, so that we can appreciate and support the work our fellow members are doing, to forward the cause of Christian Science.

Holding fast to our joyous expectancy, we are not surprised when wonderful things happen. God doesn't leave anyone comfortless. We prove this every day, with healings that could be called miraculous, if it were not that we have learned that good is natural, and evil is unnatural, and not to be tolerated for a moment.

And so, the words, step forward, kneel down, and look up, have great value for the Christian Scientist who sincerely wants to progress in this wonderful way of life. Nothing can stop the good that comes to the one who walks humbly and expectantly with God.

All the spiritual intuition, all the spontaneous scientific discernment that characterized prophets and apostles and even Jesus himself, are the individual heritage of every one of us.

Bicknell Young

A Bright Tomorrow

Doris White Evans

January 1996

The third verse of a loved hymn from the Christian Science Hymnal states:

We expect a bright tomorrow,
All will be well;
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
All must be well;
While His truth we are applying,
And upon His love relying,
God is every need supplying,
All, all is well. (Hymn No. 350)

This hymn has brought courage and healing to many people.

A man who had a serious disease that was resistant to healing, was given this hymn to work with by the practitioner whom he called for help. As he went over the words of the hymn, he asked himself, "Am I expecting a bright tomorrow?" The answer was, no. He was so depressed by the problem, that he wasn't expecting anything good to happen, or that God would heal him. He finally realized that a negative expectation would stop healing from taking place. The Bible says, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." How could he be healed, if he didn't have faith enough to sing (be joyous) through this tribulation ("days of sorrow"), and trust that "All must be well"?

He then saw, that he must be active in declaring the truth about the situation, looking away from the physical symptoms, and relying wholly on God's love and willingness to help him.

As he persisted in doing these things, forgetting his troubles, and being helpful to his family, friends and church, the symptoms left him, one by one. During this

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time his every need was met abundantly, and his love for God greatly increased. He was completely healed.

Our Leader says in her sermon "Christian Healing" (p. 10), "If you wish to be happy, argue with yourself on the side of happiness; take the side you wish to carry, and be careful not to talk on both sides, or to argue stronger for sorrow than for joy. You are the attorney for the case, and will win or lose according to your plea."

How grateful we can be that a lone woman, Mary Baker Eddy, was spiritually minded enough to hear God's voice telling her that sin, sickness and death are unreal pictures in mortal mind, that have been imposed upon humanity for centuries. She discovered that these lies are completely fraudulent, and disappear before the vigorous application of Truth.

Through study of the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, millions of people have been healed of every conceivable disease known to man. This healing is not miraculous. It is the normal operation of God's law of harmony and peace, which enters the lives of those who are willing to put their trust in the all-loving God, who never afflicts His creation. Our God is a God of comfort and kindness. The Bible tells us, "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Therefore, we have every reason to expect a "bright tomorrow." It is God's plan for each of His loved children. Our textbook says, "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." (p. 261)

"We receive what we believe." Let's believe in Almighty God and His glorious universe.

Cheerio

Doris White Evans

March 1996

Several years ago I read a sweet story about a little bird named Cheerio. Cheerio was a small yellow canary, who was the loved pet of a family. He was often let out of his cage, and enjoyed being free in the house. One day, while the little bird was exploring an open drawer where there was an interesting piece of string, a family member unknowingly shut the drawer. There the little bird was, trapped in the dark drawer. Most little birds would have folded their wings and given up hope of ever being found, but Cheerio lived in a household where Christian Science was practiced, and he was the beneficiary of much Christly love. So, instead of giving up, this little bird began to sing as loudly as he could in that dark place. He sang and sang, until someone heard him, opened the drawer, and he was freed.

This story has been an inspiration to many who have found themselves in dark places with no hope of release.

Christian Science teaches that there is never a hopeless situation. That nothing is ever beyond the reach of divine Love. Mrs. Eddy has told us, "No one is loyal to Truth, to himself or to God, or is worthy of the Kingdom of God, who has not faith enough to endure apparent defeat and delayed reward. Keep your aim, stick to your text, and have faith in your understanding of Christian Science. No person or thing in all the universe, no claim or circumstance can by any possibility interfere between you and all joy and good." "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

This inspiring statement by our Leader encourages us to stay active in the Truth, no matter how loud error may be screaming, for "victory rests on the side of immutable right." (S&H p. 446)

Cheerio

As Cheerio sang, and trusted that he would be released, so must we trust that the God who has cared for us up to now, will continue to care for us always. Evil's claims are fraudulent, and have no power to affect us in any way. As we keep our joy and gratitude quotient high, evil will slink away into its native nothingness, and we will have had another proof of God's power and willingness to care for His beloved children.

The Bible assures us that, "Love never faileth." Christian Science enables us to prove this statement every day.

Gratitude for the good God has given you will do more for your health than anything else possibly could.

Doris White Evans

Free

I am God's loving, happy child.
Spiritual, perfect, and undefiled.
On top of the world; knowing God with me!
Unlimited, grateful; born to be free!

Free from a limited sense of existence.
Free from suggestions that offer resistance.
Watching the claims of matter, fall.
Knowing forever that God, good, is All.

Art Anker

Gratitude

Doris White Evans

May 1996

A statement my father made to me when I was a child has remained with me through the years. He said, "If you were more grateful, you would have so much more."

I was brought up in Christian Science, and had been greatly blessed and protected by my parents' good mental work. However, I had developed an unpleasant habit of complaining, if I didn't get everything I thought I needed. Dad's statement arrested me, and I began to see how unlovely this habit was. I earnestly worked to recognize every bit of good that God was giving me, and to express gratitude for it. I soon found that some of the things I had thought I wanted so badly, I neither needed nor wanted.

As I've gone through life, I've made it a point to express heartfelt gratitude for the many loving things that people have done for me. I express the gratitude not only once, or twice, but many times.

One of our hymns says, "Our gratitude is riches, complaint is poverty." I've never met a truly grateful Christian Scientist who was poor. Being grateful to God for His goodness, and to our fellow man for his kindness, sets in motion the law of abundance.

Several years ago a friend was experiencing great lack. Because of this limited condition of thought, his facial expression was sour, and if someone did him a kind deed, he scarcely noticed it. His family had thought themselves poor, and he had taken on that picture for himself. He was not a joy to be with, because he lacked the love and vivacity of a grateful heart.

He wanted to work the situation out in Christian Science, but his Teacher told him that he would have to make a radical change in his thinking: That graciousness must replace the sour expression, and he must let the warmth of Christly love radiate out to his fellow beings.

Gratitude

The change did not come about overnight. He had a lifetime of negative, cold, uncaring thinking to overcome, but as he sincerely sought to change his thinking, things began to happen. He got a fine job, in a line of work he never thought he was capable of handling. With a deep humility and gratefulness of heart, he started out on this new venture. As he grew in grace, he began to succeed beyond anything he had dreamed possible. He is now firmly established in his new career, and is a joy to everyone he associates with. He is a reliable worker in the independent Christian Science movement, and a happy man.

Christian Science isn't magic. It contains rules, that if obeyed, bring glorious results. Our Leader says, "A deep sincerity is sure of success for God takes care of it." (My. p. 203)

I remember the experience of an early worker who came to Christian Science in great need of healing. She had had much practitioner help and studied earnestly day and night, but the problem persisted. Finally, one day as she was reading *Science and Health*, the thought came to her, "Why, this is wonderful! I don't care if I'm never healed, I just want to learn more about God." This was the beginning of her healing. As she studied Christian Science with a sincere desire to know God, forgetting the false picture of a sick body, the symptoms of disease left, one by one, and she found herself healed. She did not, like the nine lepers in the Bible, forget her healing, but gratefully dedicated her life to serving God and Christian Science. She became a great worker in the Christian Science movement.

It's been said that joy and gratitude are the necessary ingredients in the recipe for healing. So, instead of complaining when a problem comes, let's remember all the good that God has given us, and sing hymns of rejoicing, until error's false pretensions fall in the dust.

The Jargon of Christian Science

Doris White Evans

July 1996

Two distinguished Christian Scientists were traveling on an airplane. One was reading a copy of *Science and Health*. The flight attendant, noticing the man's peaceful demeanor, asked him what his occupation was. Was he a minister, a teacher, an educator? And what was the book he found so interesting? The Scientist launched into an intellectual discussion of Christian Science, using all of the jargon that only a church member would understand. Very shortly thereafter, the flight attendant walked away, thoroughly turned off. The Scientist was stricken! Here he had an opportunity to offer the Truth to someone, and he had muffed it by using words that she couldn't begin to comprehend. He then vowed that if God ever gave him another opportunity to offer Christian Science to someone, he wouldn't muff it by using words that were not understandable to the common man.

Soon after this experience, the Scientist was on another airplane, sitting next to a young Army lieutenant. They began to talk, and the Army officer, noticing his copy of *Science and Health*, asked him what he was reading, and why the word Science was included in the title of the book. This time the Scientist was ready. He said, "You have told me that you are an engineer. Your study of physics has made you aware of the fact that there are certain laws that govern the universe. These laws have always been present. If Caesar had understood these laws, he could have had a sewing machine. Napoleon could have had a motor car." His listener agreed in astonishment, and said that he had never even considered that possibility, and that it certainly was true.

The Christian Scientist continued, "We believe that there are laws of God, that are wholly good, and govern

The Jargon of Christian Science

every aspect of man's existence. When man becomes aware of these laws, he is able to apply them to everything concerning him; to the things that make his life happy or miserable. The understanding of these laws enables him to heal his body, his relationships, his business, or whatever else may present itself to him as a problem. That's why our textbook is titled *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Through a consecrated study of it, combined with an equally serious study of the Bible, we learn that man is the loved child of God; living under the benevolent law of Good; and that God has given him dominion over all things. We also learn that evil is unreal and powerless. *Science and Health* tells us, 'There is no power apart from God. Omnipotence has all power and to acknowledge any other power is to dishonor God.' We are careful to hold this truth firmly in thought, and to refuse obedience to the negative demands of evil. In this way we are able to control what comes into our experience, and to have the dominion and power that God gives to all His children." The young man said enthusiastically, "Why, that's wonderful! I'd love to read that book." The Christian Science worker gladly gave him his copy of *Science and Health*, rejoicing in the fact that he had listened to God, and been given a second chance to bless a fellow being. He had proved the statement from *Science and Health* (p. 261), "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." By steadfastly holding his thought to the Truth, he had seen it operate in his experience. His gratitude to God was unbounded.

This is the opportunity that God gives to all of us, to bless our fellow beings. Nothing can equal the joy and satisfaction that come from seeing the Truth begin to operate in a brother's experience.

Why Call a Practitioner?

Doris White Evans

November 1996

The first and most important reason for calling a practitioner is that they can help you out of whatever trouble you are having. There's no need to be embarrassed about needing to have help. Mrs. Eddy realized the importance of the office of practitioner and provided for it in the Manual. She also knew that evil would do everything it could to prevent people from getting the help that would save them. In *Science and Health* (p. 420) she says, "If students do not readily heal themselves, they should early call an experienced Christian Scientist to aid them. If they are unwilling to do this for themselves, they need only to know that error cannot produce this unnatural reluctance."

Calling a practitioner for help isn't only about having a healing; it's about spiritual growth. And that means getting to know God better, and knowing oneself as the beloved child of this God who is only good. There should be no embarrassment or reluctance about growing God-ward, should there?

Someone may ask, "Well, when do we do our own work?" The answer, as given by a faithful member of our church is, "I do my own work twenty-three hours and fifty-nine minutes a day, but when I need help I get it in that one minute that's left."

The willingness to get help when it's needed, has prevented many of the so-called big name diseases from gaining a foothold. It has also established a core of strong workers who don't collapse when the winds of error blow.

Over the years as I practiced Christian Science and was listed in the Boston Journal, I was sent many cases by my teacher that others had been unable to heal. These people were convinced that their condition was hopeless and incurable. In each case, I discovered that the patient had, in the past, delayed getting help until the situation

Why Call a Practitioner?

appeared to be out of control. They were healed, through Christian Science treatment, but it took a tremendous amount of hard work, and time, to bring it about. These folks had established no discipline of thought, and expected the Christian Science practitioner to press a button and heal them. They were being “tossed to and fro by adverse circumstances, inevitably subject to sin, disease, and death.” (Message for ‘02, p. 11) Due to their lack of spiritual growth, they had let their reserves in the bank of God become low, and when they needed to call upon these reserves, there was little left to draw on.

A wise Christian Scientist once said, “Be so instant in Truth that error is always too late.” We’ve learned in Plainfield that we don’t have time for long, drawn-out problems. There’s work to be done for the Cause of Christian Science, and we can’t afford to get caught in the muck and mire of mortal mind. Mrs. Eddy once said, “Mortal mind has never been kind enough to me to make me want to linger in it.” To call a practitioner when a problem hasn’t yielded to your prayers, is indeed wise. By doing this, you stop it from appearing so aggressive, strong and real that you become hypnotized by its lying suggestions.

Fortunately, the Plainfield Christian Science Church is blessed with several loving practitioners, who are ready to answer your calls with joy and confidence. If you’ve been hesitating to get help, give God a try. Not only will you find healing, but you will also learn that you are a blessed child of God, who has been given dominion over all things. That is the spiritual growth which we all deserve to have.

The Bible tells us, “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint.” This is God’s loving plan for His children.

Shepherds

Doris White Evans

January 1997

At this Christmas season we hear a lot about shepherds. What is the work of a shepherd? His job is to watch over, and tenderly care for, the sheep.

In the Bible, God is often referred to as the Great Shepherd who cares for us all. There couldn't be a more tender, loving, all-wise Shepherd than God.

Mrs. Eddy clearly understood the shepherding of God and gave us the loved hymn, "Feed My Sheep." (No. 305) This hymn is a prayer, and a powerful Christian Science treatment.

The first verse begins, "Shepherd, show me how to go, O'er the hillside steep." This is a humble prayer for God's guidance, as we work to overcome the problems that come up in life.

It continues: "How to gather, how to sow, How to feed Thy sheep." How to be receptive to Truth, and how to apply it to our daily affairs, and how to share it wisely with our fellow man, for if we don't use the Truth to help our brother, we lose it. Truth must be shared. Many times people have had wonderful healings in Christian Science, and then have become self-satisfied and disinterested in what is going on around them. When affliction hits them again, they often complain, saying, "Why doesn't Christian Science heal me?" Mrs. Eddy gives the answer in Science and Health where she terms self-will, self-justification and self-love, as the adamant of error. An adamant is defined as an impenetrable obstacle. In order to progress, and have our healings, these selfish, ungodlike, qualities must be put out. God shepherds us, and we, in turn, must be shepherds of men.

In the Preface to Science and Health (p. vii), Mrs. Eddy tells us, "The wakeful shepherd beholds the first

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faint morning beams, ere cometh the full radiance of a risen day." In view of these words of wisdom from our Leader, we can ask ourselves, "Are we wakeful shepherds?" Do we answer quickly when there's a need for help? Are we ready to love? As a good worker once said, "Keep your violin always in tune."

Those of us who have chosen to live the Christian Science way of life, have found that faithfulness is a most important factor in demonstrating the healing power of divine Love.

Error may present convincing arguments as to why we should back off a bit, and let others do the work. But this is merely an attempt to cause us to entertain "a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy want come as an armed man." The price we pay for faithlessness is a tremendous loss of good. The digression is not worth it.

The hymn continues; "I will listen for Thy voice, Lest my footsteps stray:" I will listen for God's guidance and faithfully walk with Him.

"I will follow and rejoice, All the rugged way:" I will continue on my way rejoicing, no matter what challenges error may throw at me, knowing that my tender loving Shepherd will not leave, or desert me, until I am safely home.

As we gain a correct understanding of God as our Shepherd, and our hearts overflow with love, and a sincere desire to serve Him, our lives begin to change. The "morning beams" of Truth shine in our hearts and we find the peace and harmony that God bestows upon the faithful. Could there be a more wonderful and fulfilling way of life than this?

"No Corrupt Communication"

Doris White Evans

March 1997

A recent Lesson Sermon contained a Bible verse from Ephesians, which read, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Webster defines edifying as: "To instruct or improve morally or spiritually."

This verse arrested my attention and I asked myself, what might be a corrupt communication. One of the meanings of corrupt is to spoil or destroy. Might I ever be guilty of saying things that would spoil or destroy another's happiness or peace? I certainly would never do this consciously; however there are many ways in which this can happen. Some are more obvious than others.

A friend of mine had a wonderful revelation of Truth while reading Miscellaneous Writings. She hurried to tell her mother of the glorious realization that she had had. Her mother's response was, "Oh, I always knew that." My friend was totally deflated, and lost the joy that she had found. She vowed never to share a revelation again, until she had made it her own. The mother's comment certainly "spoiled and destroyed" the daughter's inspiration. That was an example of a corrupt communication.

Other forms of "Corrupt Communication" are negative statements about the state of the Nation and the World; complaints about home or family situations; criticism of others' actions. None of these things "improve morally or spiritually," but rather pull down and spoil both the speaker and the listener.

How much better it is, to watch carefully that our conversation is always uplifting. This kind of conversa-

"No Corrupt Communication"

tion is never frivolous or banal, but meaningful and instructive. It is never time wasted in silly chatter that might lull the listener into a state of inaction. It obeys the Biblical admonition, "Our conversation is in heaven," and as a result receives the blessing of God.

Blessed Promise

The Master spoke in words of love,
And bitter doubts were stilled:
You blest, who hunger after Truth,
With Truth you shall be filled.

He marked with Christly tenderness
The humble gathered there,
And taught them that the meek should claim
The wide earth for their share.

The bowed in spirit be lifted up,
The mourner be consoled;
That Man of Galilee proclaimed
The sacred law of old.

The merciful shall mercy find,
The pure in heart see God,
Peacemakers stand as sons of light,
In holy wisdom shod.

Who bend beneath the scourge of hate
For righteousness' own sake,
Shall deeply know glad recompense,
And heaven's comfort take.

Maude DeVerse Newton

A Merry Heart

Doris White Evans

May 1997

The Bible tells us that, "A merry heart maketh like a medicine." But how does one go about getting this merry heart when there doesn't seem much to be happy about? Perhaps our health is poor, our business failing, our family separated. How can we possibly rejoice in the midst of such trouble? Christian Science shows us the way out of all this misery. One of our hymns (No. 360) gives a very clear answer to this:

True, the heart grows rich in giving;
All its wealth is living grain;
Seeds which mildew in the garner,
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.
Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden,
God will bear both it and thee.
Is the heart a well left empty?
None but God its void can fill;
Nothing but a ceaseless fountain
Can its ceaseless longings still.
Is the heart a living power?
Self-entwined its strength sinks low;
It can only live in loving,
And, by serving, love will grow.

Until we learn to look out beyond ourselves to the need of our fellow man, we are never really happy or satisfied. Mrs. Eddy tells us to "Forget self in laboring for mankind." (Mis. Wr. p. 155) She also says, "Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body to find disease in the mortal mind, and its cure, in working for God." (Mis. Wr. p. 343)

Many remarkable healings have taken place when people have learned to rejoice in the face of trouble, and to give thanks for blessings already received. It's been said

A Merry Heart

that joy and gratitude are the two necessary ingredients in the recipe for healing. If you feel low, sing a hymn. Mrs. Eddy's hymns are particularly uplifting and inspiring. I remember my mother singing them to me as a child. They never failed to bring comfort and healing. I did the same thing for my children, and they came to know the hymns by heart. When they grew up and times got tough, they continued to use these hymns and, as a result, they are still loyal Christian Scientists, who know that Truth heals, and who are a blessing to their fellow man.

Mrs. Eddy intended that Truth be shared. She tells us, "Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us." (S&H p. 79) We have seen that those who give most of their love, loyalty, abundance, and service, to God, have prospered beyond anything they could have imagined. Our magazines contain testimonies of the healing of cancer, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blindness, insanity, leukemia, heart attack, broken bones. In fact, Truth will heal everything that is honestly, humbly, and expectantly, brought to its door. If you need help, call one of our many active practitioners. Their names are listed in the back of 'Healing Thoughts' magazine. They will be glad to hear from you, and you will find comfort, love and healing.

The workers in Plainfield Christian Science Church are a happy, healthy, prosperous group of people. We've all come here because we found our lives lacking health, happiness, and fulfillment. Working in God's service has restored our health, brought us prosperity, and most of all, a sense of joy that comes only from love for God, and being active in Mrs. Eddy's blessed Science. This magazine goes all over the world, and people are being healed by reading it. Could there be any greater joy than seeing Truth prosper?

Wednesday Testimony Meetings

Doris White Evans

July 1997

What is the purpose of the Wednesday evening service? Why did Mary Baker Eddy the founder of this wonderful religion, establish a Wednesday night testimony meeting? One of our hymns says, "Through the harsh noises of our day, A low sweet prelude finds its way." (No. 238) The Wednesday healing service provides that sweet prelude.

The noises of the day are pretty harsh. If you look at the news on television, most of it is not a pleasant sight, and the newspapers are no better. Mrs. Eddy knew that there was a great need for a holy church atmosphere where God's healing love would be present, and the attendants would be praising God, and seeking to make the world a better place. The Bible tells us, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Establishing a true, and free, Christian Science Church didn't come about easily for many of us. It took work, and a tremendous change of thought. It meant leaving negative thinking behind, and taking on the positive truths of Christian Science. It is a discipline of thought that refuses to hate, and entertains only love. As we've done this, wonderful healings have taken place. We've learned that the more you give out love, the more love comes back to you. The founder of this religion, Mary Baker Eddy, said that she loved even the blade of grass under her feet. She lived love. One night she was seen before retiring, kneeling on her porch, saying, "Lord, dear Lord, keep my students straight." Meaning, keep them expressing God's love. Keep them thinking good, honest, loving thoughts. Christian Science is founded on love. It heals through love. It heals the many diseases that we've heard about at our Wednesday meetings, but it goes much farther than that. It heals things before they can af-

Wednesday Testimony Meetings

flict us, mar our happiness, undermine our courage, and destroy our peace. It goes deep into thought, and into our lives. It makes great changes, and the changes are all blessings. You don't have to fear when you begin to trust God in this way.

The Bible is our chart of life. The Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health*, teaches us how to apply the truths that the Bible has given us. Yes, God does heal. God will heal everything, if we approach Him in the right way, with a humble mind, and a loving heart, a heart open to hear what God has to say to us.

The Bible says, "Be still, and know that I am God." God speaks to us when we're still, when we're quiet and peaceful. Sometimes it takes an effort to get thought quiet. But when we do, and pray, "Father, show me what I need to know," the answer will come.

The Wednesday evening meeting is our family night. It's a pep rally of sorts. It prepares us to go back out into the world and love more; in our homes, in our jobs, wherever we may be, because Love is a mighty power. Love will open every door. We've all heard the little story about the contest between the sun and the wind. Which one would be able to make a man take off his cape? The wind said, "Well, I can certainly do it," and he blew, and blew, and blew, and the harder he blew, the tighter the man hugged his cape to him. And then the sun came out and just shone, and the man took off his cape.

Calm, quiet love will heal everything. It will open every door. It will destroy every unpleasant condition, because it's the Love of God, and we're learning how to live it to the very best of our ability, in whatever way God directs.

Tapes of our Wednesday evening healing services are available to all.

Satan Is a Liar

Doris White Evans

September 1997

An old gospel song says, "Satan is a liar." Every wrong thought that comes to you is a liar. If a thought comes and tells you you're sick, it's a liar. If a thought tells you you're depressed, it's a liar. If a thought tells you you've gone as far in business as you can, it's a liar. If a thought tells you your intelligence is limited, it's a liar. Anything negative that comes to your thinking is a liar. There's no God in it.

And what can you do about it? Science and Health tells us that we've been given "inalienable rights" to resist this kind of thinking, and to say, "No. I won't accept you." As you do this, you don't go along with the liar, and it can't interfere with the good that God has for you, and for those you love.

Trust God. When evil suggestions come, say, "This isn't the truth about me, or about my life. God made me to reflect Him. He made me in His image and likeness. The Bible tells me so. I trust the Bible. Its inspired word uplifts me. It helps me to go forward every day, to walk in the footsteps of the Master, to do the best I can to be a Christian." When you become a Christian, what looms up? The liar. Don't be surprised. Don't stand aghast. It's just impersonal opposition to the Truth.

Remember the practitioner and the smallpox epidemic? People were dying left and right, and he had several patients who were dying with it. One day he found that he had it, too. And he thought, "What do I do?" And the answer was, "Laugh." And he thought, "How can I laugh? My patients are dying, and now I've got the disease, too." But the thought came again, "Laugh." So, weakly, he went, "Ha." And then he went, "Ha. Ha." And then he went, "Ha. Ha. Ha." He really got into it. And you know what happened? All the patients were healed, and so was he, and he went on to do a lot of good healing work

Satan Is a Liar

in this world. He laughed in the liar's face, and he won.

So, when the going gets tough, try laughing at error. Believe me, it works. I've laughed at times when there didn't seem to be much to laugh about. And guess what? Pretty soon there was a lot to laugh about. That's how Truth works. It works if you're faithful to your trust, to what you know, and refuse to get swept away by evil's suggestion that something's wrong, and it's terrible.

There's an old tale that tells us, the devil sent one of his imps out to cause a man some trouble. He instructed the imp, "Go and sit on the man's shoulder and tell him he's very tired, he doesn't look well, he's getting sick." But, the imp soon came back very discouraged, and said, "The man wouldn't listen to me." The devil asked, "What did you do?" The imp said, "I went and sat on his shoulder, and said, 'You're awfully tired.' He answered, 'No I'm not.' I said, 'You don't look so well today.' And the man said, 'Yes I do.' I said, 'Perhaps some sickness is developing?' He said, 'No it isn't!'" And the devil replied, "Oh, you went about it all wrong! Now let me tell you what you must do. Go and sit on his shoulder and get him to say, 'I'm awfully tired today. I don't think I feel well. I guess I'm getting sick. It must be serious!' Do these things, and you've got him!"

Let's not let error get us. When it sits on your shoulder, tell it to go to Hell! That's where it came from. "God has endowed man with inalienable rights." Use these rights to be strong, to be happy, to be successful, to be well. Don't let anything push you down, telling you you're not good enough, you can't do it. Edward Kimball said, "If evil tells you, you can't lift your arm, say 'I can,' and do it!" Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened! me." That's God's Truth.

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When negative thoughts come, kick them out. Stay with the positive. "I can do all things through Christ." Paul was a persecutor of Christians. He had his conversion, turned around, and became one of the greatest apostles. He was persecuted, but evil couldn't harm him. One night he was in prison, singing praises to God, and suddenly everyone's chains were loosed. Everyone walked out free, because Paul trusted God, and rejoiced.

Has the devil told you, you're chained by something? A sickness, a sorrow, a business problem? Start singing praises to God. The chains will break, and you'll find yourself free, free as God made you. God made you to reflect Him. You are His child, His perfect idea. God has given you power to be right. Let's not waste what God has given us. Let's claim it, and use it. The force behind it all is Love. Those who love most, do the most good in this world. Love God, love your brother, love your business or whatever you're doing. Be grateful. When people are grateful, wonderful things happen. If good things aren't happening, go over your thinking and ask yourself, "Am I grateful to God, for the good I've already been given? If I am, I'll trust God." Stay with the positive, keep the devil out, and win!

Stand for the absolute Truth of being. The testimony of the senses is extremely insistent, but the divine Presence can never be absent to those who know that Presence, and that Presence, even the infinite Mind, has already done all things well. This fact becomes a law to every human condition, and brings about increased harmony in the exact proportion as this fact is unceasingly maintained.

Bicknell Young

Good Thoughts Are Free

Doris White Evans

November 1997

Many years ago my father-in-law made a statement that impressed me greatly and helped me to avoid many of the pitfalls that lay in my path. He said, "Every thought has a price tag. The good thoughts are free, but the negative, or bad ones, have a price. Each wrong thought bears a price tag. The more unpleasant the thought, the higher the price."

At that time, I had a friend who seemed to delight in telling me of all the troubles she'd had in the past; how many people had treated her unkindly, and how she anticipated more problems in the future. I had been raised in Christian Science, but had drifted away from it when I married, and left home. And so, in this unalert state of mind, I listened, and took in some pretty unpleasant pictures that my friend had drawn for me. Before long, I too, began to experience trouble and sickness. This woke me up, and I realized that I had been going along with, and sympathetic to, many negative thoughts that my friend had ignorantly laid upon me. My father-in-law's statement caused me to take an inventory of the contents of my thought. I didn't like what I saw, for my consciousness was filled with negative pictures, and I was beginning to pay a high price for my slothfulness.

However, nothing is ever beyond God's help. I got to my Bible and Science and Health and began a sincere study of the Lesson Sermon. Each day I took one thought from the Lesson and applied it to my daily life. I remember a statement from Science and Health that was a great help to me in my struggle to get my thinking back on the right track. It was, "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." (p. 261) At first, this was not an easy task,

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as I had gotten into the bad habit of passively going along with negative talk, and not correcting it in any way. But I persevered, and bit by bit, things got better. When my friend started talking error, I gently changed the subject. Then an interesting thing happened. We began to see less of each other. It wasn't that we loved each other any less, but our interests took us in opposite directions. I went back to church and found others who, like me, were working to improve their thinking and experience. My life became better. I sorely needed to discipline my thinking, and as I consistently held to what I knew was right and positive, wonderful things began to happen. I found a happiness that I had never known, and I had opportunities to help others out of their negative thought habits, and expectation of trouble. Life became filled with a solid sense of real achievement, and I saw many wonderful healings take place.

I look back on those times and bless the dear man who made the simple statement that turned my life around, and brought me back to Christian Science.

Interestingly, my father-in-law became a Christian Scientist when he saw the Truth working in my life. He certainly deserved to find the good that came to him as a result of this, for it saved his life when he was dying of a dread disease. He spent many productive years getting to know God better, and was a joy to all of us. Goodness is certainly its own reward.

Christian Science is a healing religion. It teaches that our thinking affects our lives, and it shows us how to maintain the Christly thinking that blesses all those upon whom our thought rests. What a wonderful way of life Mary Baker Eddy has given those who are willing to let God govern their every thought.

"Evil Has No Local Habitation"

Doris White Evans

January 1998

In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy states, "Evil has no local habitation nor name." (p. 537) You can apply this statement to any situation that may arise. Evil has presented pictures to us all of some very inharmonious, disturbing situations. When you are tempted to be disturbed, remember, "Evil has no local habitation." Evil can't live anywhere. It can't live in anybody's house, and it can't call itself by anyone's name. "Evil has no local habitation." Evil has no location in anyone's chest. "No local habitation." It has no habitation in anyone's stomach, heart, head, or in any other organ of the body; in an arm, a leg, or a foot. "Evil has no local habitation." This is a most wonderful treatment.

Evil has no name. It can't call itself headache, can't call itself flu, can't call itself cancer, can't call itself fear, disease, or trouble. It can't call itself stupidity. There are no stupid mortals in God's kingdom. This strong statement of truth wipes out evil's lying claims. I've seen this statement bring healing in many cases.

It's a tremendous truth. "Evil has no local habitation nor name." Refuse to give error a name, refuse to give it a place. Evil is always the same thing, and the word for it is nothingness. If you approach evil that way, as nothing, it will not be able to do what it would like to do to you. Error is never up to anything good.

Science and Health goes on to say, "Error excludes itself from harmony." (p. 537) Error is a liar. It can't survive in a Truth-filled consciousness. It puts itself out. It is always a liar, and it will always destroy itself, if disbelieved.

And finally, Science and Health tells us that, "Sin is its own punishment." (p. 537) We don't have to punish anyone. If a person disobeys the law of love, he will punish

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himself. The law of divine justice is always operating. "Error excludes itself from harmony." The punishment often comes quickly and many times very severely.

All there is to any suggestion that animal magnetism can put forth, is nothing! It is always nothing. Don't believe it. You don't have to have it. Why? Because God never made it, or authorized it. God never gave it power; therefore, it is powerless. How wonderful that we can walk over any unpleasant situation. We don't have to be trapped in it.

If, however, we're not being honest with ourselves, or with our fellow man, we're giving evil a resting place. I think we're too smart to do that. The Plainfield Church motto is: "Honesty is spiritual power." (S&H p. 453) Let's claim this power. Let's live the power. Be honest with God. Never go behind closed doors in your thinking, or in your home, and have a double standard that you would not like your church brothers and sisters to see. Don't make excuses for error. Don't be nice to it. If it's an error, it's all wrong. "No local habitation." It has no place in the thinking of a right-minded person.

Science and Health is eternally fresh. Fresh and new. You can find something in it that inspires you, and heals whatever may be trying to disturb you. Open your heart to God, and He will show you His perfect plan. Thank God that Christian Science does heal. It does work. It wipes out all evil, as we stand faithfully with the truths we've learned, and trust God's love and willingness to care for us, His beloved children.

Make your common daily work an instructor in divine things. Fill up the measure of your daily life with all that is pure and good and true. Let these be as the first rungs of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven.

C. S. Journal 1914

The Blessing of the Lord

Doris White Evans

March 1998

The Bible tells us, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it." As I thought about this verse and its promise, examples of evil's attempts to reverse Truth and bring sorrow, came to mind. Suppose someone had an extremely artistic nature, and could paint beautifully or play a musical instrument well. That's a blessing of the Lord. And if they see it as a blessing from God, there will never be error's unholy claim of the sorrow of an unstable temperament added to it. That is a lie of error that seeks to reverse good. Suppose one was a successful engineer, and forgot that this blessing came from God? He would then fall into error's false law concerning engineers; that many times they are disorganized and rush about mindlessly. That's one of the sorrows error attempts to add with the blessings of engineering ability. But if we know that God made us, and gave us the talents we have, there will be no sorrow added with anything good. This is such a beautiful Bible promise.

I remember hearing of a woman who, everyone believed, had inherited beautiful hands from her grandmother. Now, this was a belief that God hadn't created her, and that something apart from Him could be inherited humanly. As the years went by, along with the belief of these beautiful hands, there also developed an absolutely terrible disposition, which was then also attributed to the grandmother. If the woman had acknowledged the beautiful hands as the blessing of the Lord, the inherited belief of a terrible disposition could never have come upon her.

How easy it is to fall for error's subtle, and seemingly harmless suggestions, especially when they appear good.

We go along with them passively, until we are suddenly jolted out of our lethargy by the inevitable sorrow that accompanies the belief in a power apart from God.

There are so many ways in which error tries to convince us that we are independent workers who can do something without God. It says, "Well, you did this" or, "This is your possession, your talent." But every talent is "the blessing of the Lord," and must be seen as such. And if we keep knowing that God is the source of our intelligence, of our life, our joy, and our stability, there will be no sorrow added to our lives.

We knew a man who was very, very stubborn, and caused much unhappiness to those who loved him. One day a friend remarked, "Oh, that's Prussianism. He has a German background and they are very stubborn." What a terrible burden that man was carrying around, due to the belief of a false law. Shortly after this, the man became a Christian Scientist. As he studied Science and Health, and began to understand his perfect spiritual selfhood as a son of God, the cold, stubborn disposition disappeared, and in its place appeared a loving, helpful, humble, son of God.

God has made each one of us in just the way that He wants us, and His way is perfect. In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy tells us, "The divine Mind that made man maintains His own image and likeness." (p. 151) God doesn't see us in any other way than as His perfect ideas, capable, and able to do all things through Christ, our Christ consciousness. What a glorious, unchanging heritage has been bestowed upon man by an all-loving God. As we accept our spiritual heritage, God's goodness will never be reversed, and we will rest secure in the love of almighty God, to whom we belong.

The Commandments

Doris White Evans

May 1998

The Commandments were given to Moses by God at a time when the people were sorely in need of divine guidance. "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" is the First Commandment. The other nine Commandments are amplifications of that First Commandment. The following Commandments teach us how to have no other gods before the one good God, the Father of us all.

The Second Commandment tells us, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image of anything." If you make an idol or a god of your health, of your business, of someone you love, you're breaking the Second Commandment. You're shutting out God. Don't make an idol of any person or thing. This is harmful to you, and to them, as they cannot possibly fulfill your human expectations. Worship God.

The Third Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." When you pray, expect God to answer. If you do not expect that God is going to hear you, you are breaking the Third Commandment. I think we've all been guilty of that at one time or another. We sometimes pray and think, "I've prayed, but maybe God won't hear me." That's breaking the Third Commandment. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Expect God to help you. Why? Because God loves you. You are His child and He will not forsake you. You never call on Him in vain. Have faith that God does care, and there are no exceptions to that caring and loving. He doesn't love one, and not another. He loves us all equally. It doesn't matter who we are, where we've been, or what we've done. God still loves us, because God is Love, and that Love is unchanging.

The Fourth Commandment: "Remember the sab-

bath day, to keep it holy." Make every day God's day. Let every day be holy. Don't go to church and pray only on Sunday, but let prayer be your way of life, so that as you go about your daily round, you bless all those with whom you come in contact.

The Fifth Commandment: "Honour thy father and thy mother." Know that God is your Father and Mother, and that God is the Father and Mother of the precious children He has given you. God has loaned them to you for blessing. They're beautiful, obedient, loving, and good. When you think of your human parents, bless them with the same kind of loving thoughts.

The Sixth Commandment: "Thou shalt not kill." You shall not kill another's inspiration. You shall not kill another's joy, with negative statements or expectations. You shall not put another down, because that kills another's budding hope and his chance to know God better.

The Seventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Don't mix good and evil, or try to work equally with Truth and error. Don't say, "I need God when I'm in trouble, but the rest of the time I can think for myself." You can't mix the human and divine. That's committing adultery; adulterating the Truth. Don't do it. The price is too high.

The Eighth Commandment: "Thou shalt not steal." This means absolute honesty with God and with yourself. Don't be critical. Don't steal another's joy. Don't say things you don't mean, that are insincere. They are destructive to you, and to the one you are saying them. Be honest and forthright in your thinking and actions. God gives unlimited good to all. There's nothing to fear.

The Ninth Commandment: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." See your neighbor as

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God sees him, a perfect, loving child of the Father. You'll lift him up, and bless him. You'll bless yourself, too.

The Tenth Commandment: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house," his "wife," "his manservant," "his maidservant." People often think, "Oh, if I only had what So-and-So has." That's dangerous, as you are taking yourself out of God's law of harmony, and therefore become subject to all of the false so-called laws of evil, which result in sin, sickness, and death. Be happy and grateful for what you have, and God will give you more. Appreciate what you have, at the moment you have it, and don't be looking all the time to find some bigger thrill, or acquire some bigger possession. God has all good for every one of His children, and it's here for us now, if we'll just be grateful and recognize it.

Claim your full salvation as a child of God. He loves you and knows you. Your name is written in heaven. You were created for His glory, to know and do His will. Obey the Commandments and find heaven.

God's Will

Dear Father-Mother God,
Help me to do Thy will.
To silence sense and self
And bid all fear be still.

Dear Father-Mother God,
To do Thy will, I live.
To love as I am loved by You,
To comfort and forgive.

Regina Edwards

Man's True Being

Doris White Evans

July 1998

In a talk to the Athenians, Paul said, "For in Him, we live, and move and have our being."

In God we live. Science and Health tells us that, "Life is God and God is All." (p. 366) Therefore, there is no sick life, no imperfect life, no immoral life, no poverty-filled life, no hateful or hated life. If God is man's life, he can manifest only perfection and goodness.

In God we move. "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." (Mis. Wr. p. 354) Therefore, there is no paralysis of good; there is no paralysis of right action; there is no stalling in doing good. There are no ups and downs. There is no tripping up. Man moves in God's right time.

A man was diagnosed with a severe case of polio and spent many weary months bedridden in a hospital. After much treatment, he was informed that his leg muscles had deteriorated and he would never walk again. He was devastated, and resigned himself to a life of helplessness.

At that point, an acquaintance urged him to try Christian Science, as he had heard reports of wonderful healings taking place.

The man found a Christian Science practitioner who agreed to treat him through prayer. One of the statements he was given to work with was the one first mentioned in this article. "In Him, we live, and move, and have our being." He took up a sincere study of the Bible and Science and Health. A statement that was very helpful was, "Mind is the source of all movement, and there is no inertia to retard or check its perpetual and harmonious ac-

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tion." (p. 283) He realized as he studied, that he had always been an inert personality, letting things go as they would, and never opposing wrong. As he grew in Science, his true, enthusiastic and loving character appeared. As his thought changed, so did his body. He became interested in doing good, even if he couldn't walk. Complaint disappeared. And one day, to his great joy, he found that he could stand on his feet. As he continued his joyful study, and gratitude for good filled his heart, he became stronger each day, until he could walk freely. He and the practitioner rejoiced in another proof of God's healing love.

In God we have our being. Our being is God. Mrs. Eddy writes of God, "He sustains my individuality. Nay, more—He is my individuality and my Life." (Un. p. 48) Therefore, man is God expressed. This does not mean that man is God. Never! But, "As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light one with the sun, even so God and man, Father and son, are one in being." (S&H p. 361) This statement clearly substantiates the thought that man is God expressed.

What a wonderful heritage, and opportunity to see ourselves and everyone, everywhere, as being part of God. This is a divine idea, and carries with it the might of Omnipotence. Let's live it, use it, and see things bloom wherever our thought rests.

Man dwells forever in the secret place of the Most High, enfolded in the arms of the Almighty.

Doris White Evans

