

opened unto you," but he also said, "Ask, and it shall be given you."

Since God is perfect, it is impossible for Him to change or to be changed. God is always sustaining and governing His creation aright; and since He knows all that can be known, He needs no information or advice. Prayer, then, can in no way change God. But human minds and lives need to be transformed by the divine power. An earnest, sincere turning to God in prayer, asking for His guidance and blessing, plays an important part in this transforming process.

When Solomon became king over Israel he realized that the human mind could find within itself nothing that could prove adequate for the solution of the difficult problems which would devolve upon him as ruler over a great nation. He therefore turned to God, the divine Mind, for help. It is recorded in the Bible that when God said, "Ask what I shall give thee," the young king replied, "Give . . . thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people." Solomon's appeal was answered by an inflow of wisdom which not only blessed him and his people, but continues to bless us to-day through the pages of the Bible. Centuries later, James, a faithful follower of the Nazarene, gave to all mankind the inspired counsel, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

**The Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science**

How did Christian Science come to be discovered, and why was Mrs. Eddy the one who discovered and founded Christian Science? Mrs. Eddy discovered and founded Christian Science, because that was the work which God gave her to do. God equipped her for the great work she did. He protected, sustained, and empowered her when she did it. In no other way could such a work be done. It was God's beneficent law that prepared Moses for the work he did. It was God who commanded Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Because that was the work which God fitted him to do and gave him to do, he alone could do it. There are no accidents in the divine order; and there is no chance about the way in which divine truth becomes known to humanity.

When Jesus was visiting many cities and villages, teaching and preaching, and, as the Scriptures record, healing "every sickness and every disease among the people," his heart went out to the multitudes about him because of their great need for spiritual enlightenment. They were like sheep without a shepherd. Then Jesus said to his twelve disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Jesus knew that no man could help in the gathering of that harvest unless God equipped him, and sent him to labor there. When the great Master was bringing the work which he did upon earth to its completion, he said to his heavenly Father, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

There were many things which played an important part in Mrs. Eddy's preparation for her discovery of Christian Science. Most important of all was the spirit which animated her. From early childhood she was imbued with a love for God and a love for mankind. She was brought up in a home where the Bible was constantly read and studied. She was instructed from its pages from the time she could remember. She was taught, by her mother, to believe in divine healing; and she had some striking proofs of the power of prayer to heal while she was still a child. As life expanded and deepened, she tasted the tragedy of human life to the full. It was proved to her how helpless are mere human efforts to meet the deeper needs of the race. She was forced ever nearer and nearer to God for comfort, and for succor of sorrow. She saw the great need of humanity for deliverance, and she longed with a love that was deep, broad, and all-embracing, to see the whole race set free.

Efforts in her behalf proved futile. In the year 1866 Mrs. Eddy met with a serious accident. All human and hope for her recovery was abandoned. When death seemed just at hand, her thought turned completely and unreservedly to God for help. She asked her friends to withdraw and to leave her alone with her heavenly Father and His great gift to humanity, the Bible. Then she opened her Bible at the ninth chapter of Matthew. She read there the account, familiar to all Bible students, of the man whom Jesus healed of the palsy. As Mrs. Eddy read, her consciousness was illumined. She grasped the great fact that since God never changes, and since He is "no respecter of persons," the same divine power which delivered the man sick of the palsy was present and operative to deliver her. She perceived this and other great truths so clearly that she was healed.

From the point of vision thus gained, and with the Bible as her only textbook, Mrs. Eddy pressed on until she discovered the Science of Christianity, or in other words, Christian Science. It was revealed to Mrs. Eddy that Jesus did his mighty works not as a supernatural worker who could set aside God's law, but as a scientific worker who understood, obeyed, and utilized God's law, and thereby accomplished naturally the glorious results which made humanity marvel. Mrs. Eddy recognized that all the world needed for its complete deliverance was a correct and full understanding of that truth which Jesus revealed and practiced.

After her discovery, Mrs. Eddy's next great task was to found Chris-

tian Science. If the truth which Jesus knew had been revealed to her, she could prove that fact by doing the works which Jesus said could be done by those who understood his teaching. This she did. She healed the sick with marked success; and she taught others to heal. Finally she was ready to give her discovery to the world. In order to present her teaching properly, it was necessary for her to express her meaning with scientific accuracy. Moreover, she had to cover the ground with an adequacy sufficient to make plain every point which the student must grasp in order to gain, step by step, a perfect understanding of that Science which Jesus taught and lived and which is destined to redeem the whole human race. This achievement Mrs. Eddy accomplished. Consequently, when she published "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," in 1875, she was able to proclaim with certainty in that wonderful book (p. 174): "Truth is revealed. It needs only to be practiced."

A few years after the publication of Science and Health, it became evident to Mrs. Eddy that, in order to present the Science of Christianity to the world, she must organize a church of her own. This she did, aided by a little band of followers, in 1879. A few years later at Mrs. Eddy's request, this church was re-organized, and given its present name, The First Church of Christ, Scientist. Under Mrs. Eddy's wise leadership, this church steadily grew and prospered.

Mrs. Eddy gave to this church the Church Manual, which contains the by-laws under which this church and its many branches are governed. She gave to her church its periodicals, The Christian Science Journal, the Christian Science Sentinel, the Herald of Christian Science; and a great daily newspaper, The Christian Science Monitor. She gave to her church the Christian Science Quarterly, which contains the Lessons-Sermons read in all Christian Science churches. She gave to her church The Christian Science Publishing Society where all these great instrumentalities for good are published.

Christian Scientists realize more fully, with every forward step they take, the tremendous debt of gratitude which they owe for the manifold blessings of God which have reached them through the work of Mary Baker Eddy. They realize that they can pay this debt only through faithful obedience to her teaching, and through service to mankind. Mrs. Eddy was always known to Christian Scientists as their Leader, and so she will always be known. This is natural and inevitable. Christ Jesus is our only Way-shower, Master, Saviour. He is just as much the Way-shower of every true Christian of to-day, as He was the Way-shower to the Christians of the first century. In a similar way, Mary Baker is the only Leader the Christian Science movement has ever had, or ever will have.

**Christ-Healing**  
We all recognize the world's great need of deliverance. Humanity needs to be delivered from pain, poverty, strife, grief, sin, sickness, and death. Now no individual can do much towards freeing himself or others from these discordant conditions, so long as he thinks of God as responsible, in any way, for the distresses of mankind. How grateful we should be that the true theology, which Christ Jesus taught and practiced, makes plain the fact that God does not and cannot afflict anyone. A clear realization of this fact has healed many a case of sickness and many a case of grief.

Jesus never connected evil in any way with God. He traced discords of all sorts to the opposite of God, in other words, to the devil or Satan. Indeed, John says of Jesus' mission, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." When Jesus healed the sick, comforted the sorrowing, raised the dead, he utilized God's redemptive power, and he destroyed the works of Satan. His own words leave no room for doubt on this point. When someone objected because he healed a woman on the Sabbath day, Jesus called attention to the fact that people provide for the needs of their animals on that day, and then said: "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

Now what is the devil whose works the Master came to destroy? As the word "God" means good, so the words "devil" and "Satan," as used in the Bible, simply mean the opposite of good, or evil. Since God is the one infinite cause and creator, who produces all that has actual existence, and since He cannot produce anything unlike Himself, it is evident that God can have no real opposite. This relegates evil to the realm of unreality, and that is exactly where Jesus placed evil in his teaching and in his practice. When the great Master said, "If ye continue in my word, . . . ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," he certainly meant that the truth which he was revealing would set the race free from all its woes. He also certainly meant that all those woes are illusions and not facts; for all the truth which a man might learn could never set him free from a single fact.

A chief factor in every case of sickness is fear. In one of his remarkable discourses Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jesus knew that there is no real reason for fear. He taught his disciples how to rid themselves of fear. No man can be afraid who clearly perceives that God is the only power there is and that God is wholly good, or in other words, is divine Life, Truth, and Love. Hence

John's declaration, "Perfect love casteth out fear. . . He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

The understanding that God is Love is the perfect remedy for pain. Pain is intimately connected with fear and cruelty. We all know how cruel, despotic, human rulers have conducted themselves, what hardships and distress they have imposed upon their subjects. We all know something about the patience, the forbearance, the kindness which benevolent rulers have manifested. If there existed a cruel God, He would produce pain and inflict it upon His helpless creatures. But since God, the Supreme Being, is so beneficent and kind that His very essence and nature are aptly described in the phrase, God is Love, the true God could not possibly produce such a thing as pain. This banishes pain to the realm of false belief or delusion. In Christian Science practice it has been proved, and is daily being proved, that a clear realization of the grand fact that God is Love casts the belief of pain out of human consciousness.

A wonderful accession of spiritual enlightenment, health, and freedom will come to the human race whenever it ceases to look upon death as an ancient and honorable institution which has divine sanction. Paul ca's death "the last enemy that shall be destroyed." He refers to Jesus as "our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Jesus teaching and practice indicate beyond question that he regarded death as an error to be resisted and overcome through divine power. He commanded his followers not only to heal the sick, but to raise the dead. At Nain, he stopped a funeral procession, and restored to his widowed mother the young man who was being borne in that procession. He went to the house of Jairus, whose little daughter had just succumbed to the last enemy. On the way he comfortingly said to Jairus, "Fear not: believe only." He said to the mourners who had gathered at that house to grieve: "Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose." He raised his friend, Lazarus, four days after he had been laid in the tomb. Last of all, he allowed those who persistently opposed and resisted his teaching to take him and crucify him. Three days after, he appeared to his disciples. At intervals through a period of forty days, he instructed them. Then he ascended, or in other words, rose above the human sense of things to the divine. His true spiritual selfhood continues to exist, as it always has existed, in infinite Spirit, the perfect Son of the perfect Father. Thus he furnished the proof for all time that man in God's image is eternal and indestructible, and that death is a delusion and a falsity which can and must be overcome, that mortality may give place to immortality.

When Christ Jesus instructed his disciples to preach the gospel, he told them also to heal the sick. The record of healing made by Jesus' followers in the first century is a glorious one. A careful study of that remarkable book of the Bible, The Acts of the Apostles, makes plain this fact.

When Mrs. Eddy organized her church, she emphasized the importance of healing by the divine method which Christ Jesus and his disciples practiced. The Christian Science movement has grown, and is growing, because Christian Science heals. Just through reading "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," a host of people have been delivered from bondage, and ushered into a blessed peace and freedom. Daily it is being demonstrated, wherever active, alert Christian Scientists are found that the truth heals to-day just as it did in the days of primitive Christianity. The testimonies given every Wednesday evening in the Christian Science churches, and the well-authenticated testimonies of healing, published in The Christian Science Journal and the Christian Science Sentinel, clearly indicate that the practice of Christian Science is blessing the world to an extent far beyond the ability of any man to measure.

"Whatsoever is born of God," says John, "overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." The faith here referred to has no connection with blind belief or mere credulity. Credulity and blind belief are just as apt to cling to evil and falsity as they are to that which is true and good. True faith on the other hand is trust in that which is good and true. True faith is always intelligent. It is always desirable. We can never have too much of it. Faith intuitively feels that the good is real even before the good is understood. It precedes spiritual understanding, and the two are inseparably connected. When the good that the individual has trusted through faith is understood, then faith merges into spiritual understanding. Faith plays an exceedingly important part in spiritual healing. Jesus' most common remark to those he healed was, "According to your faith be it unto you." He healed with certainty and with ease because his own trust in good was boundless. On page 200 of her book, "Miscellaneous Writings," Mrs. Eddy says, "It was the consummate naturariness or Truth in the mind of Jesus, that made his healing easy and instantaneous." Why should we not trust completely and unswervingly in the good? God, the one and only cause, is good; and all that He produces is good. Why should we ever trust in evil, or ever fear it? Evil is always abnormal, unnatural, un-Godlike, and therefore unreal and powerless. Daily we can increase our trust in good, and diminish our trust in evil. Daily we can increase our understanding

of God and the real man. By this spiritual activity we are working out our salvation and aiding others. We are helping to make apparent the nothingness of evil. We are helping to bring nearer the grand day when God will be universally understood, and the perfection of man and the universe will be universally recognized.

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