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A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING FACILITY

The High Calling of Christian Science Nursing *Bearing Witness to the Truth*

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“Brethren... this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

(Phil. 3: 13, 14)

We are witnesses to the greatest discovery in human history, in fact for all time. It is the discovery of the Science of the Christ by Mary Baker Eddy – a discovery that is the road to salvation and healing for all mankind, the “universal and perfect remedy.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 393) Mrs. Eddy, our Leader in Christian Science, once said, “Above Arcturus and his sons, broader than the solar system and higher than the atmosphere of our planets, is the Science of mental healing.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 174, emphasis added) Our Lord and Master, Christ Jesus, was the original witness to the Truth about God and man. There was no higher calling than that of Jesus. Speaking of his role as witness, Mrs. Eddy wrote, “In witness of his divine commission, he presented the proof that Life, Truth, and Love heal the sick and the sinning, and triumph over death through Mind, not matter.” (SH, p. 54) She offers each of us, the same call to action: “Who is ready to follow his teaching and example? All must sooner or later plant themselves in Christ, the true idea of God.” (SH, p. 54) All must demonstrate the Science of the Christ and bear witness to the Truth. Mrs. Eddy uses the term “sooner or later” 14 times to indicate that all will come to the realization of the Christ as the only healing and saving power. “Sooner or later all shall know Him, recognize the great truth that Spirit is infinite, and find life in Him in whom we do ‘live, and move and have our being....’” (*Christian Science versus Pantheism*, p. 13)

This greatest of all discoveries should not have to vie for first place in our hearts and minds. It has no competition. The road to healing and salvation is not a forked road – go here or go there, try this or try that. It might *seem* that there are two paths to healing available to us, two ways of thinking or of looking at man and the world. But, the teachings of the most effective healer ever known – Christ Jesus – point to a single, inevitable path to healing. Oneness is a key concept in Christian Science, isn't it? Mrs. Eddy says, “God is one. The allness of Deity is His oneness.” (SH, p. 267) She also said to a student, “Take the First Commandment as your medicine. It will heal all your diseases.” (*Mary Baker Eddy Christian Healer*, amp. ed. p. 234) The First Commandment establishes the oneness of God. And, the Book of Isaiah records, “I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: ...” (Isaiah 45:5)

Mrs. Eddy wrote, “The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God is the *only* Life.” (SH, p. 324) Christ Jesus referred to this straight and narrow way when he said, “I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” (John 18:37)

Jesus taught his followers not to believe what they observed with their eyes, or felt through the physical senses. In an article titled “Don’t let your eyes fool you!” the author said his grandmother loved to tell the story of a little girl who attended a Christian Science Sunday School and hurt her finger while playing. When the girl’s father came home and asked to see the injury, she replied, “Oh daddy, please don’t see what you’re going to look at!” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, January 16, 2012) In other words, be careful not to be taken in by the physical picture, or you may be fooled by what you are seeing! Such information is known as empirical evidence, about which Mrs. Eddy says, “Empirical knowledge is worse than useless; it has never advanced man a single step in the scale of being.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 234) And from the “Glossary” in *Science and Health*, listen to her definition of “knowledge” – “Evidence obtained from the five corporeal senses; mortality; beliefs and opinions; human theories, doctrines, hypotheses; that which is not divine, and is the origin of sin, sickness, and death; the opposite of spiritual Truth and understanding.” (SH 590)

God is the all-knowing and all seeing, the only observer. Therefore, we can only witness what God sees, what God has created - perfect God created perfect man. Our Master taught us in the Sermon on the Mount, “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matt. 6:22, 24) Mrs. Eddy wrote along this line, “We cannot obey both physiology and Spirit, for one absolutely destroys the other, and one or the other must be supreme in the affections. It is impossible to work from two standpoints. If we attempt it, we shall presently “hold to the one, and despise the other. The hypotheses of mortals are antagonistic to Science and cannot mix with it. ...Mortals entreat the divine Mind to heal the sick, and forthwith shut out the aid of Mind by using material means, thus working against themselves and their prayers and denying man's God-given ability to demonstrate Mind's sacred power.” (SH, p. 182)

Empirical knowledge is useless whereas divine Science is the complete answer to the problem of being. Our Leader said, “Thought imbued with purity, Truth and Love, instructed in the Science of metaphysical healing, is the most potent and desirable remedial agent on the earth.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 4) “Teach the meekness and might of life ‘hid with Christ in God’, and there will be no desire for other healing methods.” (SH, p. 445)

Are we willing to accept this high calling and forsake matter for Spirit, embrace this discovery, this

revelation, to bear witness to the truth, or are we walking away from it? After hearing what was required of them and declaring that it was too hard, many of Jesus' followers left him; after which Jesus turned to his disciples and asked, "Will ye go away?" And Peter profoundly answered, "To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (John 6: 67-69)

Our Leader said, "Jesus has made the way plain, - so plain that all are without excuse who walk not in it; but this way is not the path of physical science, human philosophy, or mystic psychology." (*Unity of Good*, p. 8) Following in Jesus' footsteps demands "absolute consecration of thought, energy and desire," says Mrs. Eddy. Is *that* kind of dedication worth it in order to bring into our experience the universal and perfect remedy for healing? We have to answer that question for ourselves. It is our decision. Listen to our Leader's clear words on this topic: "We are in the Valley of Decision. Shall we depart from the example of the Master in Christian Science, Jesus of Nazareth, - than whom mankind hath no higher ideal? He who demonstrated his power over sin, disease, and death, is the master Metaphysician. To seek or employ other means than those the Master used in demonstrating Life scientifically, is to lose the priceless knowledge of his Principle and practice. He said, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' Gain a pure Christianity (the definition of pure is: not debased by a mixture with something of less value) for that is requisite for healing the sick. Then you will need no other aid, and will have full faith in his prophecy, 'and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd;' but, the Word must abide in us, if we would obtain that promise. We cannot depart from his holy example, - we cannot leave Christ for the schools which crucify him, and yet follow him in healing. Fidelity to his precepts and practice is the only passport to his power;" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 270)

Dr. John Tutt was a medical doctor in the early 1900s who had a patient whom he pronounced incurable. This dejected patient turned to the new method of healing which had become so popular at the time, Christian Science, and she was completely healed. Inspired by this, Dr. Tutt also sought Christian Science treatment for a long-standing illness of his own, and, he too was cured. He was so inspired to have found the true method of healing. He became a Christian Science practitioner and Christian Science teacher as well as a lecturer and prolific writer. Dr. Tutt wrote a lecture titled "The Case Against Idolatry" in which he said: "Belief in the curative power of matter is inherent in mortal man in all the history of the human race. Through the centuries the gods of medicine have changed their form, but not their matter basis and false claims. In all the ages material medicine has been a false claimant to the healing and saving power of the Christ. The case of Christian Science against material medicine calls for a proper reduction of disease to its falsely mental state. We need to know disease for what it actually is, an erroneous condition of thought, subject to correction with the truth. We should always remember that Science and Health declares unequivocally: 'There is no disease.' This is a literal statement of truth to be taken literally. Then, if there is no disease, there is surely no cause of disease and no effects from it." (*Lectures on Christian Science*, by Dr. John M. Tutt, C.S.B., copyright 2015, Charleston, SC)

Years ago, I was making frequent visits to the dentist, as I seemed to have one cavity after another in my mouth. After about my third or fourth visit within a year, the dentist said to me, "I don't want to

scare you, but I think you should be tested for diabetes.” Boy, was that a wakeup call! I told another Christian Scientist, to whom I was very close, what the dentist said. His response was not what I was looking for. He said to me, “You should take this seriously because you can die from diabetes.” While I was not afraid, I was alert to the fact that two persistent world beliefs – that diabetes was real and that it was life threatening – had to be handled for what they were, misstatements or misconceptions. Matter is an error of statement. They were not my beliefs; they were simply false beliefs that I had sovereign power to reject, because God knew nothing of them and I reflect and express only what God knows. Therefore, they were inherently powerless. I felt it wise, however, to take the other Christian Scientist’s dire prognosis to a practitioner to affirm with her the truth of being. What she came back with was even more powerful than I had imagined it would be. I told her that he said I could die from this disease, and she immediately shot back, enough to startle me, “No one, in the history of the world, has ever died from a disease!” I felt she was saying to me, “Wake up! Realize the fallacy of that statement! Don’t accept it at face value!” That mentally knocked me back on my heels as I contemplated and rejoiced over her bold statement of truth – a profound and accurate conclusion that had escaped me. And then she gave the reason why, “Because there is NO disease.”

This illusion, that man can experience or manifest a disease, can be likened to seeing someone in the midst of a nightmare, crying out for help. They may even imagine they are about to die. Would you feel sorry for them and say, “Hang on, I’m coming into your dream to help save you!” Of course not! You would wake them up and say, “Never mind. It was nothing but a dream. None of those things ever happened to you.” One time when my grandson was very young, he saw a frightening Halloween mask of a monster on a very large person, and absolutely dissolved into tears and started shaking. Did I need to destroy the monster to save my grandson? What monster? All that was needed was the removal of the mask or false image. There was nothing threatening the well-being of my grandson, except his fear. Evil in any form – sin, disease, or death, has NEVER existed and never will. So, the question, “Why does evil exist?” has no answer, because THERE IS NO WHY TO A LIE. It would be like wondering “Why does $2 + 2 = 5$?” The answer is, it doesn’t! It is only the *belief* in the existence of evil that frightens us, and that we must destroy. Lies don’t exist. Understanding the nature of a dream-state, a hypnotic state, an illusion, or a mask, will aid us in understanding the unreality of what seems to be matter or evil. And what happens when we uncover error or strip off its mask? “Christian Science never healed a patient without proving with mathematical certainty that error, when found out, is two-thirds destroyed, and the remaining third kills itself.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 210)

“The only power of evil is to destroy itself,” states our textbook. (SH, p. 186) The practitioner’s statement about the unequivocal unreality of disease was the confirmation I needed. The mask had been removed and the error self-destructed. Just as with Moses, when God instructed him to put his hand in his cloak which produced leprosy and then repeating the same action made the leprosy disappear, this illusion had lost its power to alarm me. In describing this event, Mrs. Eddy wrote, “The illusion of Moses lost its power to alarm him when he discovered that what he apparently saw was really but a phase of mortal

belief.” (SH, p. 321) She also stated, “You command the situation if you understand that mortal existence is a state of self-deception and not the truth of being.” (SH, p. 403) As you may have concluded, the repeated infections in my mouth disappeared and never came back. “There is no disease” is a literal statement to be taken literally. No lie of mortal mind should ever be allowed to go unchallenged by the full power of divine Truth, Life and Love.

Mrs. Eddy stated, “Sickness has been combated for centuries by doctors using material remedies; but the question arises, Is there any less sickness because of these practitioners? A vigorous ‘No’ is the response deducible from two facts....” (SH, p. viii) She wrote that statement over 100 years ago. But what would doctors say about the efficacy of their practice today? The status quo would tell you that we live in an era of tremendous medical advances that we can all rely on. Let’s take a closer look at that assertion.

A neuro surgeon recently wrote: “Trying to find out the biological origins of psychiatric disease leaves you with sand going through your hands. I learned neuro science is totally wrong. They don’t believe ‘mind’ exists. I think psychiatry has lost its mind literally and metaphysically. We are living in a time of a huge existential crisis.” (“Who Says Religion and Science Don’t Mix?” *New York Times*, June 26, 2019)

Dr. Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet* (a medical journal which dates back to Mrs. Eddy’s time) recently said, “Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, medical science has taken a turn towards darkness.” (“Science has taken a turn toward darkness” by Arjun Walia, *Global Research*, May 23, 2015)

Dr. Marcia Angell, a physician who was longtime Editor-in-Chief of the highly respected *New England Journal of Medicine* said, “It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor at the New England Journal of Medicine.” (Drug Companies & doctors: A Story of Corruption,” *The New York Review of Books* magazine, Jan 15, 2009)

Bruce Lipton, PhD and stem cell biologist says, “Before we blame the cells, we must first look at our thoughts, our beliefs and our behaviors because these are more important than the genes. When we change our thoughts, behaviors, and beliefs, we can change our biology. We are the masters of our lives, not the victim of our genes.” (www.brucelipton.com)

This year, I found a book review in the *Wall Street Journal* by Robert Kaplan of Stanford University’s School of Medicine, the author of “More Than Medicine.” It says the U.S. spends nearly twice its GDP on health

care than other nations, but our medical outcomes have not improved our health, in fact, he said, our health is deteriorating. Mr. Kaplan laments in particular that the link between genetic defects and disease – after 1800 trials – has yielded zero cures. (“An Ounce of Prevention” WSJ, March 18, 2019)

Another article states that, “There is growing evidence that knee-replacement surgery results may not match the hype — and that many people considering the procedure would be better off saving the money, recovery time and disappointment. 13 studies involving nearly 1,700 patients found the surgery did not provide lasting pain relief or improve function for the majority of patients. Fewer than 15 percent of patients felt an improvement in pain and function, and those effects disappeared after one year. (May 11, 2017, NPR.org)

In another article in the *Wall Street Journal*, mental health drugs fared equally poorly. In a number of studies, a drug was no more efficacious than a placebo in easing depression. It says the psychopharmaceutical industry has become a target of moral outrage. They have vigorously marketed drugs that have alarming side effects. The Director of the Institute for Mental Health has concluded “we have not moved the needle in reducing suicide, hospitalizations, or improving recovery for tens of millions of people who have mental illness. (“There Has to Be a Better Way” WSJ, May 4-5, 2019)

Sometimes, we don’t understand why we are going through a challenge. Regardless we can always declare God is in control and all things work together for good! Let’s never forget the biblical statement that “all things working for good to those who love God” is a statement of spiritual law which supersedes all so-called material laws.

I’ll now share a true story related to an article entitled, “The Patient Wants to Leave, But the Answer is ‘No’.” (*New York Times*, July 7, 2017) This article alarmingly reported on the power of doctors and hospital administrators to hold people in hospital facilities against their will. A Christian Science practitioner and teacher, who was a former lawyer, and her patient, had firsthand experience with what this article claimed. A woman who is a Christian Scientist was admitted to a hospital against her will, by her family who are not Christian Scientists. After 6 months of trying to get out and getting moved to three different facilities, the practitioner was contacted to take the case. Because the family could not keep their mother in the hospital against her will, they had to claim she was not of sound mind and so the Health Care Proxy took effect against her will. They transferred her to the mental ward, to support their claim. She was given medicine and drugs, which she disposed. The nurses were on her side, recognizing she was of perfectly sound mind. But, the administrator of this hospital (which had its own police station across the street) was adamant about keeping the patient there. The law was on the side of the patient all along, but the administrator said, “we have our own rules.” Because of the Christian Science practitioner’s efforts to free the woman on legal grounds, the hospital decided to bring a suit against the woman in order to prove that she was not of sound mind. Nevertheless, all things were working together for good! At the court hearing to prove her mental incompetence, at which the hospital administrator, family members and

psychiatrist were all present to testify against her, the Christian Science practitioner made the case for the woman to be released and transferred to a Christian Science nursing facility which was just one mile away. The administrator kept jumping up and objecting to anything the practitioner said. Finally, the judge said, “No...I want to hear this.” And then he let the practitioner speak for two hours about Christian Science healing.

When the hearing was over, the judge asked for a copy of “*Science and Health*.” He also accepted a copy of the book, “*The Soul of Medicine: Spiritual Perspectives and Clinical Practice*,” which explores the spiritual aspect of healing for all religions, including a chapter on Christian Science, whose author happened to be the practitioner on this case. (This book was researched and published by Harvard Medical School because they discovered that patient satisfaction and physician morale had both declined significantly, sending nearly half the population to explore the spiritual dimensions of healing. It cites the fact that in 1992 only two medical schools had a course on spirituality. Today 90% or 127 of 141 medical schools have a course on spirituality.) The judge ruled in favor of the patient being released immediately.

Her legs had so improved from the time Christian Science treatment had begun, that the therapist asked, what drugs have you been taken that your legs look so much better? She assured him it was nothing else except the Christian Science treatments that had healed her legs. They asked her if she wanted an ambulance to take her to the Christian Science nursing facility, but she and the practitioner assured them it was not needed. She walked to the car. This woman stayed at the nearby Christian Science nursing facility for just a few weeks, at which time she was well enough to move into an apartment in a Christian Science care wing. To this day she is fully active. Note how quickly this woman progressed when removed from the atmosphere of thought that saw her as a sick mortal needing endless drugs for relief; and, instead, placed in an atmosphere of love where the teachings of Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy’s discovery of the Comforter are revered and followed. Our Leader asks, “Spirituality lays open siege to materialism. On which side are we fighting?” (SH, p. 216)

Human thought is expanding and the leaven of truth is at work, as evidenced by the number of physicists today who are coming to the understanding that life is independent of matter. Quantum physics has reduced what once seemed like solid matter to its smallest element and still they can prove no underlying substance or mass. Many of them call it energy. Many are calling it ideas or thoughts. In fact, prominent physicists have concluded that the universe is comprised of nothing but thoughts or ideas – a wholly mental universe. I loved one physicist’s definition of time: the repetition of matter. They’re getting closer to the truth, but without the understanding that God, divine Mind, is the Creator of man and the universe, they will never fully get there. Listen to these declarations our Leader made nearly a century and a half ago: “Matter disappears under the microscope of Spirit.” (SH, p. 264) “In metaphysics, matter disappears from the remedy entirely and Mind takes it rightful and supreme place.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 156)

Jesus, the most scientific man who ever trod the globe, taught us to look deep into realism, instead of accepting only the outward appearance of things (empirical evidence). In *Unity of Good* we read, "...The talent and genius of the centuries have wrongly reckoned. They have not based upon revelation their arguments and conclusions as to the source and resources of being... but have built instead upon the sand of human reason. They have not accepted the simple teaching and life of Jesus as the only true solution of the perplexing problem of human existence." (p. 8)

It may seem difficult to grasp the truth that matter does not exist, but that is precisely what we must do! Reject empiricism and accept spiritual truth. Mrs. Eddy received a note from a woman saying she had been corrected by a Christian Science practitioner for referring to herself as an immortal idea of the one divine Mind. The practitioner told her the statement was wrong because she still lived in her flesh. The woman boldly replied to the practitioner that she did not live in the flesh, but that her flesh lived or died according to the beliefs she entertained about it; and that after coming to this truth, she had found that she lived, moved and had her being in God, and that to obey Christ was not to know as real the beliefs of an earthly mortal. Mrs. Eddy wholeheartedly agreed with the woman, not the practitioner, and the woman then pleaded with Mrs. Eddy to share this truth in the *Christian Science Sentinel* for all to read, which Mrs. Eddy did in 1910 (also be found in *Miscellany*, p. 242). "You are scientifically correct in your statement about yourself. You can never demonstrate spirituality until you declare yourself to be immortal and understand that you are so. Christian Science is absolute; It is neither behind the point of perfection nor advancing towards it. It is at this point and must be practiced therefrom. Unless you fully perceive that you are the child of God, hence perfect, you have no Principle to demonstrate and no rule for its demonstration." Martha Wilcox who lived in Mrs. Eddy's home for many years often reminded her students (which included my grandmother and my aunt) to "live your immortality NOW!" So that was a phrase my mother heard often when growing up.

What a glorious gift has been given to us in the Science of the Christ. It is our privilege to bear witness to the truths about God and man, which are taught in our Pastor, the Bible and *Science and Health*. Our Leader said "...the [Christian] Scientists aim highest. They press forward towards the mark of a high calling. They recognize the claims of the law and the gospel. They know that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap.... with hearts overflowing with love for God, they help on the brotherhood of men." (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 348) Mrs. Eddy instructed one of her student to, "Deny with all boldness that you cannot heal, for to admit it is dishonoring God, since He it is who heals, worketh through us, and we must see that we reflect Him – reflect the divine power." (MBECH, amp. Ed., p. 232)

This high calling of bearing witness to the truth applies particularly to Christian Science nursing. Is nursing a profession, a vocation or a calling? Let's look at all three words. We may think of it as a profession...but listen to the definition. The more material meaning is this: "the business which one professes to understand and follow for subsistence." In other words, a means of making money. However, the meaning that I would apply to Christian Science nursing is the more spiritual definition of "profession,"

which is “the collective body of persons engaged in a calling; a profession of faith or religion.” And along that line, vocation (which comes from the word for voice) has the same, more spiritual meaning: “A calling by the will of God. The bestowment of God’s distinguishing grace upon a person by which that person is put in the way of salvation.” And, the definition of “calling” is divine summons, vocation, or invitation.” (“The Student’s Reference Dictionary” or Noah Webster’s “American Dictionary of the English Language” of 1828)

You might ask if it is practical to work without focusing on one’s income? Don’t we need to focus on subsistence? As always, we can turn to our Pastor for guidance in answering these questions. Our Master said, “Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matt. 6:25, 33)

Here’s a practical example of this blessing promised by Jesus. My mother was a Christian Science practitioner from the time I was a very little girl. She had three children under the age of 8 when she went into the full-time public practice and became listed in *The Christian Science Journal*, while my father couldn’t seem to keep a job. Not a good recipe for financial success from a human standpoint. Yet, mother felt the calling and trusted in God. It may have seemed counter intuitive to devote all her time to the healing practice, but it proved to be just the opposite, as Jesus promised. The spiritual atmosphere in our home brought about a healing of two lifelong beliefs about my father – a temper and migraine headaches. This enabled him to find an excellent job with the American Bar Association, where he stayed for his entire career. The healing was so complete as the headaches never came back and he was known by friends and family as one of the most kind and gentle men you’d ever meet. This same spiritual atmosphere manifested what, to me, was the most beautiful home I’d ever seen. We had a swimming pool, 8-foot hedges around the yard, colorful flowers everywhere. Our home felt like a palace to me, and yet, this tiny home had only two bedrooms and one bathroom for five people. We all lived there until my siblings and I finished college. Why did it meet all our needs? Because of the spirit of truth and love that filled it – all of which came from mother’s healing practice. Her whole life she said she never had an extra dollar, yet never did she want for the best, the most beautiful manifestations of home, clothing, décor, travel, etc. They were all supplied, not by money, but by Mind. Oh yes, it often appeared in the form of money when it was needed, but that’s never what she sought. She knew all supply came directly from God, the great and only cause – from which emanates every right idea that man will ever need. I took Christian Science class instruction the summer before my junior year abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris. I called my Christian Science teacher to apologize that I wouldn’t be able to attend my first Association in October because my parents didn’t have the money for me to fly home for the weekend. When I called him on the phone and told him my parents couldn’t afford for me to fly home, he simply paused, and then thoughtfully replied, “Won’t it be interesting to see how God works it out?” Click. I called my mom to let her know what he said, and she said, “Oh, of course that’s a right idea! Why did I ever doubt that we couldn’t afford for you to fly home?” Click, again. I knew she had gotten busy declaring the truth about the abundance of God’s supply of good. And so, I did the

same. The next thing I knew, she called back the same day saying an unexpected check from a patient had arrived in the mail which was more than enough to pay for my flight and expenses. With an understanding of God as abundant Love, we don't just subsist, we thrive!

What a high calling is this for Christian Science nurses and practitioners, for every Christian Scientist who has devoted his or her life to bearing witness to the truth. Christian Science nurses, in particular, have a very special vocation. From a human standpoint, they are called upon to be face-to-face with mortal mind, or what material sense would call matter, or the flesh, each day. Nevertheless, Christian Science nurses know they are doing no such thing. They are face-to-face with God and God's spiritual idea man, each and every day. Matter is nowhere in that picture. Our highest calling is to demonstrate (not just to know or profess), to prove our oneness with the Father. To prove man is never separate, never alone, never thinking thoughts from a personal mind, but reflecting the all-knowing and all-loving divine Mind. The Christian Science nurse may be similar to the good Samaritan who sees his fellow man in need of comfort, cleaning, feeding, holding up for a time, being delivered to a safe place, and meets that need with joy and the assurance that God's love alone is the healer of all mankind. Christian Science nurses strive to see the real man, not man as the world sees him, through empirical evidence, but to see man as God sees him, in demonstration of Mrs. Eddy's explanation of how Jesus healed. "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick." (SH, p. 476)

This seeing takes a heart and mind that is willing to look deep into realism instead of accepting only the outward sense of things, as our Leader says. Many of us do this for our own family and ourselves each day. The Christian Science nurse does it for the stranger. This is dedication. This is charity. This is faith. And, this is demonstration. The Christian Science nurse cares for fellow Christian Scientists in ways that no medical establishment could ever do. "Pilgrim on earth, thy home is heaven; stranger, thou art the guest of God." (SH, p. 254) You are truly a guest of God in a Christian Science nursing facility or in the presence of a sincere Christian Science nurse in your own home.

One time when my mother, my husband and I were all living in the Boston area, I received a phone call from the airline representative asking us to please come to the airport immediately. My mother, in her 80s, had tripped on the ramp while deplaning and seemed to suffer a severe gash to her forehead. She had refused an ambulance, but the airline felt she needed to get to a hospital immediately to be cared for. We arrived quickly, only to find my mother standing and waiting for us at the curbside, with no less than six attendants and the pilot from the plane hovering around her. There she stood in the middle of these dear airline employees with a large bandage wrapped around her head and a huge smile on her face. They, on the other hand, looked terrified. What were they seeing? And what was she seeing? That's exactly what we've been talking about. They saw empirical evidence that told them an elderly lady had a severe head injury and needed to go the emergency room at a hospital. She saw an ageless, spiritual idea who had never fallen from her high estate as a child of God, who could be cared for at a Christian Science nursing facility

where the workers would see her in exactly the same way as God saw her.

She quickly assured my husband and me that she was fine and then thanked the airline staff for taking such good care of her. The staff overflowed with compliments and bewilderment at her joy and confidence in the face of what they saw as a terrible accident. “She needed OUR help,” one of them said, “but she was helping US and telling US not to be afraid!” This reminded me of the passage in Matthew, “...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister...” (Matt. 20:28) My mother had explained to them that she was a Christian Science practitioner who had successfully relied on prayer alone for healing for her entire life as well as for all the patients who called her. We took her to the Christian Science Benevolent Association, where we were greeted with equally big smiles, confidence and joy. The Christian Science nurses cleaned her up, applied some butterfly bandages, and offered to let her stay, but she assured them she would be fine at home. She went back a few times for some bandage changing but that was it. Where else could she have received such inspired and elevated treatment were it not for such Christian Science nursing facilities? It was clearly an inspired idea from our Father-Mother God which led Mrs. Eddy to include the by-law Christian Science Nurse. These dedicated individuals are often “good Samaritans,” – sentinels who are ready and willing to help their fellow man, without coming down from their high mental platform that sees man in the image and likeness of God.

Christian Science nurses know they must keep their thought on the level of the truth. It is their own thought they are guarding, not the thought of the patient. They know *not* to accept the testimony of the material senses as real, regardless of how loudly error tries to scream the opposite. They see Christ’s vision of man, filling them with hope, gratitude, trust and joy. They must vigorously pray for themselves not to be fooled by the false evidence before them. Christian Science nurses guard their own thinking against the belief in age, accident, sickness, disease or death, without trying to uncover error, as a practitioner would do. These dedicated individuals guard their own thought, striving to keep it in obedience to the Christ, maintaining an atmosphere of complete trust in God, helping the patient feel loved and cared for, seeing their every need met through divine Love. This elevated mental atmosphere is an invaluable help to the Christian Science practitioner on the case.

There was a patient in the Midwest who was struggling with a challenge, while her married daughter, also a Christian Scientist, was very ill at the same time. The son-in-law was not a Christian Scientist, so the daughter was invited to stay with her mother who offered to care for her. However, caring for her daughter turned out to be more physically and emotionally demanding that she could handle. She struggled to make any progress, because the fear for her daughter was so great. It didn’t help that the school, where her daughter worked, kept calling to check up on her, as they believed her problem to be severe, and they were all afraid for her. The practitioner on this case suggested a Christian Science nursing facility, but there were none nearby. So, the practitioner then suggested calling a visiting Christian Science nurse. The next day, the practitioner found out they had not called a Christian Science nurse because the nearest one was many hours away. (That’s just one trick of mortal mind to keep folks from a healing.) The

practitioner pointed out that the Christian Science nurse would already be with them had they only called her. They realized the absurdity of letting the so-called time constraint keep them from this much needed assistance. So, they called and the CS nurse arrived not soon thereafter. Doing her job as defender of the faith, the Christian Science nurse cared for the daughter, which freed up the mother, who got well. Also, the daughter quickly returned to health and to her teaching position, much to the surprise of her colleagues who said they had never seen someone recover so quickly from this type of illness. It's been many years and the false claim has never returned.

Another instance where a Christian Science nurse was integral to the healing process occurred about six years ago. A practitioner received a call in the middle of the night from a man who lived far away. He had had a stroke. The material picture tried to say that one side of his body was paralyzed and his speech severely impaired. He was doing a good job of staying calm and holding on to the truth, but he couldn't do anything for himself. Because the practitioner couldn't be with him, a Christian Science nurse was called, but she lived many hours away, so he had to be on his own for a while. The practitioner felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the manual provision for the Christian Science nurse. The practitioner saw Christian Science nursing is needed throughout the duration of the Christian Science Movement, until the final destruction of all belief in evil. Although the practitioner could not be at the patient's side, a Christian Science nurse could to provide immediate comfort and aid. The practitioner stayed on the phone with the patient, singing hymns and voicing the truth for several hours until the CS nurse could arrive.

Let's think for a moment what this could have looked like if the patient had believed there was more than one path to healing, if he had succumbed to the argument, "I have to know what's going on with me. I'm going to a doctor." An ambulance picking him up would have increased his fear. The matter-based diagnosis (or human opinion) by a doctor would have increased the fear even further, (for matter can NEVER give a true diagnosis of God's man). And, then the treatment and recuperation period could have lasted for years and still not return the patient to his original self. Christian Science practitioners receive numerous calls from distraught patients describing such scenarios. Patients have turned back to Science for help to call to ask for Christian Science treatment to heal the damage done by the drugs and medical procedures, and to heal the belief of their original ailment. Now, contrast that with the healing power demonstrated by the Master Metaphysician, Christ Jesus. The Christ, Truth assured this patient that his perfection was intact, nothing had not been taken from him and could never be taken from him so long as God reigned supreme on His throne – God being all-powerful and the source of man's perfection. The patient readily acknowledged God had not stepped down from his throne. He was sure that the Creator of the universe was still in complete control. (Note that one method of treatment induces fear; while the other completely destroys fear.)

Our Leader told us the Bible contains the recipe for all healing. The Bible instructs us, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isa. 41:10) And also this great passage, "O

man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. (Dan. 10:19)

Our Master often said “fear not” when healing the belief in disease and death. And our Leader stated, “Christian scientific practice begins with Christ's keynote of harmony, “Be not afraid!” (SH, p. 410) This patient had rejected the idea of calling an ambulance when this occurred. But how was he so sure he could rely on God in the face of such seemingly daunting physical evidence? One way to describe what he was doing is declaring the end from the beginning as the Bible says, “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning... saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:” (Isa. 46:9, 10) In other words, declare what God tells you to be true before you can even see it. Isn't that what Paul described to us when he said, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1) Moses taught the Israelites this lesson when he was freeing them from Egypt. They were trapped in the desert with no water and so turned against Moses and God as having failed them. Isn't that something we're tempted to do when a marvelous demonstration is followed by a severe problem? We're tempted to ask, “Why isn't Christian Science working this time? I just demonstrated it! Why am I having another challenge?” The Israelites were jubilant to be freed from slavery in Egypt, thanking Moses and thanking God, UNTIL the next challenge came along. They hadn't learned how to access the power of God for themselves, nor had they learned that every challenge is nothing but an opportunity to prove and demonstrate what you know about God. No challenge is ever real. God's power has never been usurped. Moses came upon a well, which delighted them all, until they discovered it contained no water. They were furious and their faith vanished. In Numbers it says “The Lord spake unto Moses and said, “Gather the people together and I will give them water.” (Num. 21:16) So, Moses instructed them to sing to the well and ask it to spring up! “Sing ye unto it!” he said. Without the material evidence in place, they were declaring the power and presence of God in their lives. And the well produced water. This patient had learned to do that with previous challenges and had demonstrated that it worked. He declared his perfection before it was evident empirically. Empirical evidence does not dictate to us. Instead, we can dictate, through the power of the Christ, *to* empirical evidence what the truth of being is, and so destroy its vain boastings. So, when this challenge presented itself, his faith did not waiver. There are no degrees to a lie. There isn't “not very frightening, a little frightening, really frightening and terrifying.” A lie is a lie is a lie. No degree and no quantity of lies can EVER make a lie true. In fact, the greater the lie tries to be, the *greater* the truth it is trying to cover up. As our Leader pointed out, “The greatest wrong is but a supposititious opposite of the highest right. The confidence inspired by Science lies in the fact that Truth is real and error is unreal. Error is a coward before Truth.” (SH, p. 368)

The patient and practitioner continued to reason their way out of this dream of a stroke. A dream as “a series of thoughts not under the command of reason, hence wild and irregular.” (TSRD, 1828) The waking dream, as Mrs. Eddy refers to it, is no different, and no more real than the sleeping dream. So, together, they let the Christ speak the truth about God and man. They *reasoned* their way out of the dream that the patient could be anything less than an ageless, healthy man of God's creating, pure and upright,

whole and free. It's impossible to hold in thought the picture of oneself as the very image of Love, and still see oneself as paralyzed or degenerating. The true picture will always replace the false one, because it carries with it the divine mandate, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

The Christian Science nurse arrived and carried on the very important role of being cheerful, patient, full of faith and receptive to Truth and Love (as Mrs. Eddy outlines on page 395 in *Science and Health* p. 395). This elevated thought helped to protect the treatment. If she had accepted the material picture, the empirical evidence, to any degree, it could have introduced fear into the patient's thought and hindered the demonstration or prolonged it. But she didn't. She agreed wholeheartedly with the truth and acted accordingly. The patient, practitioner and CS nurse did not wait until the body corresponded with declarations of the truth to believe was evident. They sang hymns of gratitude and praise – to "the well" so to speak, to spring up with healing and wellness each knew to be true. They declared the end result before empirical evidence had yielded to spiritual sense.

The next day, the patient called the practitioner after a long night of rejoicing. "I'm out having breakfast with a friend," he said joyfully with a clear voice and no signs of slurred speech. All signs of the stroke had disappeared, vanished into their native nothingness. The mask had been removed, and by declaring the end from the beginning this patient had become a "law unto himself" removing the effects of false material law and allowing the law of divine Principle, the law of Love, to shine through.

A Christian Science nurse acts as defender of the faith that the practitioner has brought to bear on the situation. What an important and inspired role!

This is an important point to understand in metaphysics and a place where many may fall by the wayside. When you are so sure of the truth and of your perfection as a child of God, but don't see the evidence, this is NOT the time to give up! It is the time to go up higher! Indeed, this is all you are being called upon to do. It is YOUR high calling. Our Leader says, "If your endeavors are beset by fearful odds, and you receive no present reward, go not back to error, nor become a sluggard in the race. When the smoke of battle clears away, you will discern the good you have done, and receive according to your deserving. Love is not hasty to deliver us from temptation, for Love means that we shall be tried and purified." (SH, p. 22) We therefore need to get rid of every last vestige of fear or doubt that would *try* to render God, divine Spirit, powerless as the supreme and only healer.

When Mrs. Eddy was being attacked by her enemies, during her trial, she wrote, "when these things cease to bless, they will cease to occur." (*Miscellany*, p. 143) She describes this very important concept as Paul's rare rule. She says: "The apostle Paul insists on the rare rule in Christian Science.... a rule that is susceptible of proof, and is applicable to every stage and state of human existence. ...Christians to-day should be able to say, with the sweet sincerity of the apostle, "I take pleasure in infirmities," — I enjoy the

touch of weakness, pain, and all suffering of the flesh, *because* it compels me to seek the remedy for it, and to find happiness, apart from the personal senses.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 200)

As we reach metaphysical clarity in our prayers about a physical illness, we cannot include in those prayers an outline for God with our ideas on how and when things should appear. God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways higher than our ways. His word does NOT return unto him void, but accomplishes the thing whereto He sent it. Do we believe this? Do we trust in His all-power and ever-presence? God is the all-seeing, all-acting and all-wise and we must trust the one Mind to reveal to us what we need to know and when we need to know it, without giving in to doubt, discouragement or fear. Otherwise, we are breaking the First Commandment. What we may not realize is that “Divine Love is moving upon the waters of mortal mid and forming the perfect concept. And what is the result? “Patience must have her perfect work.” (SH, p. 454)

In Christian Science, healing is not an event, nor a process. It does not take place over a certain amount of time. It doesn’t happen on, around or through a body, in fact, it doesn’t involve matter at all, well matter or sick matter, because matter doesn’t exist. Christian Science never fails because it declares what already exists – perfect God and perfect man, (that’s why we can declare the end from the beginning). It doesn’t work towards a point of completion or perfection. It starts there and proves its supremacy. Perfect God and perfect man – this is the basis of our thought and demonstration. Healing is a moment of realization. Some folks say, “It’s a revealing, not a healing.” So true! It is the touching of the hem of Christ’s garment, or spiritual consciousness. It is a process of seeing – “We must look deep into realism instead of accepting only the outward sense of things.” (SH, p. 129) It is the operation of God’s law that never fails. Healing starts with God and ends with God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Only. It is a release of false beliefs which disappear before the light of Truth. In other words, a decision, a change of consciousness which opens our eyes to the light, the reality that matter does not exist, because God is All-in-All. “Deny the existence of matter, and you can destroy the belief in material conditions.” says our Leader. (SH, p. 368)

You’ve probably noticed that I have quoted Apostle Paul numerous times throughout my talk. That’s because Christ Jesus designated him to be his representative to preach throughout the world. Paul’s words were often not his own. He spoke as the Christ directed him. Mrs. Eddy quoted Paul over 130 times in her writings, (in contrast with Peter whom she referenced 20 times). She placed Paul above all but Christ Jesus when she said: “Great only as good, because fashioned divinely, were those unpretentious yet colossal characters, Paul and Jesus. Theirs were modes of mind cast in the moulds of Christian Science: Paul’s, by the supremely natural transforming power of Truth; and the character of Jesus, by his original scientific sonship with God. Philosophy never has produced, nor can it reproduce, these stars of the first magnitude — fixed stars in the heavens of Soul.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 360)

And so, quoting St. Paul once more, “Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (I Cor. 2:5)

What a simple and profound statement!

Lastly, our Leader said, “Be allied to the Deific power, and all that is good will aid your journey. Hourly in Christian Science, man thus weds himself with God, or rather ratifies a union predestined from all eternity.” (*Unity of Good*, p. 17) Let us be willing to stand with her when she stated: “The testimony of the material senses is neither absolute nor divine. I therefore plant myself unreservedly on the teaching of Jesus, of his apostles, of the prophets, and on the testimony of the Science of Mind. Other foundations there are none.” (SH, p. 269) That is the high calling for each and every one of us – to bear witness to the greatest discovery of all time, the Science of the Christ!

“God is blessing you, my beloved students and brethren. Press on towards the high calling whereunto divine Love has called us and is fast fulfilling the promises.” – Mary Baker Eddy (*Miscellany*, p. 201)

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