

**WIDE HORIZON, INC.
A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING FACILITY**

The Presence of God's Grace

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An Inspirational Talk for the 2022 Annual Meeting of Wide Horizon
Saturday, October 8**

Good afternoon! Thank you so much to Wide Horizon for the honor of inviting me to be with all of you today, and it is with tremendous gratitude to Sixth Church for allowing Wide Horizon to hold its Annual Meeting here, in their lovely and inviting sanctuary, enabling all of us to be together in communion, to be of one accord.

While the theme for Wide Horizon is "Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way," from page 454 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, the title of this talk is "The Presence of God's Grace." This fits nicely with their theme don't you think? Because wouldn't the presence of God's grace naturally be that very Love that inspires, illuminates, designates and perfectly leads the way for each of us, in just the way we need it?

My heart just over flows with the knowledge that each of us, indeed everyone, is blessed, constantly and consistently with the presence of God's grace. What a comfort that is!

You may remember, in the lesson on Sacrament a few months ago, grace was repeatedly mentioned. I was asking myself do I really understand and live this concept of grace, and how might it affect the activities of my life, my practice, my family, and our dear church family.

So, I dug in, and began an adventure to learn more about grace. Let's visit for just a moment the meaning of grace. From the Bible in II Corinthians 12:9, we learn that grace is sufficient, ... it is enough, ... it is all we need to overcome any short coming, challenge, wilderness experience, through the love and knowledge of the Christ. Why? Because it is, in fact, the presence of God's grace that is sufficient. We learn, too, in John 1:17, that "... the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

The following are a few more familiar citations from the Bible on *grace*: From Colossians we are instructed to, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (4:6). And from Titus, we hear the promise of deliverance, when he says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (2:11).

And from Mary Baker Eddy's writings we have from *Science and Health*: "Give us grace for today; feed the famished affections" (p. 17); and "Grace and Truth are potent beyond all other means and methods" (p. 67); and the cherished, gentle, directive of, "What we most need is "The Presence of God's Grace" by Katherine Milner-Hieronymus, C.S.

the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds” (p. 4). And, from Mrs. Eddy’s article, *Christian Science verses Pantheism*, we learn that, “All this is accomplished by the grace of God, — the effect of God understood.” These are just a few references to grace.

As a side note, you might be interested to know that there are 159 references to *grace* in the Bible; 73 references in the writings of Mary Baker Eddy; 93 references in the *Christian Science Hymnal*; over 25,000 references in JSH Online. So, there’s plenty of sources and resources, to research and dig deeper into this concept of grace.

Next, I went to *The Students Reference Dictionary* and found quite a list of definitions of *grace*: favor; good-will; kindness; disposition to oblige another; favorable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the Spirit in renewing the heart and restraining from sin; the application of Christ’s righteousness to the sinner; virtuous or religious affection or disposition, such as faith, meekness, humility, patience, all proceeding from divine influence.

But the following definition really opened my thought and I began looking for grace throughout my day in a multitude of ways. It’s the definition of *grace* as given in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance to the Bible*, which I am sure many of you are very familiar with. It reads, “Grace: the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.”

The Bible from beginning to end is a book about grace as we witness the many ways how the prophets of old learned about, experienced and expressed grace. More on that later.

Some time ago, Norm Williams, Sue Wood and Deanna Proctor, who is a Christian Science nurse, came to our church in Colorado Springs to give a workshop on Christian Science nursing and Wide Horizon’s programs. It was very informative about the wonderful service Wide offers. It also included a short demonstration on how to help those, with ease and comfort, if they’ve fallen, and they demonstrated some small pieces of equipment that may assist one even with just getting out of a chair easily and with grace. It was very helpful.

One of the things that impressed me the most was a question that was asked. It went something like this: How, and in what ways have any of us, those in the audience, expressed or experienced nursing in general? At first, I’m thinking, “Well, I’ve only really needed a nurse one time, and I haven’t been in a position to be a nurse.” Then I heard some of the answers. Things like raising children, helping parents, grandparents, or neighbors, etc. It really stirred my thought to review and consider all the ways we each, all of us, daily, express, and demonstrate the qualities that would fall under the heading of *nursing*.

It called my attention to and with great appreciation to think about the many ways and opportunities we each have to express the qualities of a Christian Science nurse. We’re all familiar with Mary Baker Eddy’s description of *a nurse* as found in our textbook on page 395 of *Science and Health*. As a reminder, it reads, “The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual,

patient, full of faith, — receptive to Truth and Love.” All of which each of us always has the opportunity of expressing in our individual daily lives.

This is where the title of the talk actually came from. As I was thinking about these definitions, it occurred to me that they clearly define our Christian Science nurses. They are, and in fact, we all are, the epitome of the presence of God’s grace, the divine influence upon the heart, the reflection and demonstration of life.

As we are each on the path of being progressive, productive, practicing and devout students of Christian Science, aren’t we all motivated, and inspired to daily and hourly to achieve and express the vitality, energy, endurance and steadfastness, often required of a nurturing individual, as well as embracing the love and the graciousness of the spiritual qualities constituting our true spiritual selfhood?

This requires of us daily, hourly the Christianization of thought expressed in each deed, and action we carry out. We are aware of the responsiveness, generosity and unification of Love only as we are loving. We feel the energy, resourcefulness, and radiance of Spirit, in proportion that we enlighten thought. We exhibit the authority, authenticity and dependability of Truth, as our spiritualized thought saves us from any uncertainty; this practice preserves our sense of good and so preserves a harmonious sense of human mind and body for ourselves, and all our thoughts rest upon.

Let me share with you here my one personal experience with being in the care of a Christian Science nurse. It was late afternoon moving into early evening on a Saturday when I had the opportunity to call upon a Christian Science nurse to assist me.

My husband and I were doing some landscaping that involved removing river rock from the bed of our truck, to a window well of our home. The job was completed and I was turned backwards to step down from the back of the truck, when I mis-stepped and fell backwards off the truck, full force, hitting my head on the corner of a landscape rock. My husband was at my side immediately sharing truths with me, although I was unable to process what he was saying at the time, as I appeared to be losing consciousness.

Earlier that day, in my daily identification work, I had been praying specifically declaring my oneness with Mind; that my consciousness was a reflection of God’s consciousness; that what Mind knows, I know by reflection; that my intelligence and ability is the product of the one Mind; that I will always know and have just what I need, at the right time and in the right way. Fragments of these thoughts came to me as I was lying on the ground.

Feeling a bit like the character Humpty Dumpty, and physically holding my head together, which felt like it was the size of a watermelon, I knew it was time to insist that harmony is the law. When I was finally able to get up and into the house the physical evidence indicated that there was a serious head wound, so we called a local Christian Science nurse to assist us.

When this Christian Science nurse arrived, she found that the wound was already beginning to close, but did need some attention which she did with gentleness, precision, joyfulness and, yes, grace and even a bit of humor. I don't recall how long it took to care for the wound, but I do recall the complete and fearless comfort I felt as she worked.

Feeling refreshed and more together, I continued to refute the animal magnetism arguments that there could be any residual after effects, or that there was a threat of something more serious. By morning, the swelling had gone down, the pain was gone, and I was able to be at my post as First Reader. Praise God for His holy presence!

Now let's think about Moses for a moment. I love the Bible stories and all the different characters, and the lessons that each teaches us about the relevance of their stories to our current individual daily lives. As you know, the Book of Exodus gives the account of Moses, who saw a burning bush, was attracted to it, stopped to examine it more closely, curious why it burned but was not consumed. When God saw this inquisitiveness, he called out to Moses, introduced himself, and told Moses he was on holy ground, but not to be afraid. Then, God shared his plan with Moses.

You all know the plan. God called upon Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, freeing them from captivity and bondage of every sort. Moses, as you know, was reluctant to accept this task from God and stated a series of excuses, indicating that he was not up to the task, or perhaps felt incapable to perform what was being asked of him. Moses, actually argued with God. Can you imagine? Can you believe that? Now, I'm sure none of you have ever argued with God – at least not successfully, right?

Let's see how this turned out for Moses. Moses, improperly identified himself, by accepting that he was a mortal, incapable, inadequate, lacking in many ways. None of us are ever guilty of doing that are we?

One of Moses' false claims about himself was a feeling of personal unfitness. Why me, he said? I don't know enough, thus expressing a belief of incompleteness, of lack, of skepticism, and doubt. Isn't this one of mortal mind's tools to undermine, to plant the seed of doubt, to manipulate man into believing he is incompetent, not qualified, inept, inefficient and lacking in some way? Wasn't Moses denying the ever-presence and all power of divine Mind; the all-knowing and infinite ability of that Mind? Perhaps, Moses hadn't realized yet, that God, our Father/Mother, gives us, each of us, an abundance of resources, the ability to make good decisions, express wit, intelligence, good sense, worth and value. Moses was perhaps thinking that the problem was "too big", but in reality, his thinking was too small. Why, because he was thinking he was doing all the work, when in reality it was God's work to do. I'm sure we've all had several Moses-type of experiences in our lifetime.

Here's one of mine, involving that universal concept of nursing we mentioned earlier. Once I was asked to assist a beloved family member for three days, which I was delighted to do as

they were very precious to me. They had been struggling with a physical problem that required attending to, and changing a sensitive and unsightly dressing. My response was immediate ... of course I'd help, I love this individual. So, what did I do? I went home and cried, and then cried some more. Struggling with the following thoughts, "Why did I ever commit to do this?" What followed was a laundry list of Moses excuses and objections! A Moses' mode of thinking of why I shouldn't, or couldn't do this task. The arguments of I don't know how; I might hurt my loved one; I don't know if I can handle the visual, be unimpressed by the material picture; "can I really hold it all together" was the bottom-line question? These worrisome human thoughts flooded my consciousness. I spent the evening praying to my Father/Mother to be able to do what was required of me with some semblance of order, knowhow, and most of all compassion. After all, this beloved family member was the one with the challenge, not me, right? I prayed to see this person only as God sees His child; to know only as Mind knows; to have the resource of Spirit to do what needs to be done with grace; to know only the authenticity of Truth and nothing else; and to love only as Love loves.

Well, I did care for this dear family member, and with complete freedom from all of the mortal mind arguments to the contrary. There was no trepidation, doubt, insecurity, and I was able to see as Mind sees. It was clearly an example of the presence of God's grace.

So, what does this grace look like? Isn't it the provision of the answers to each false belief of animal magnetism? God told Moses, and me, in His commanding, but ever-loving, clear voice, "Certainly I will be with thee" (Exodus 3:12). Confirming man's inseparability from God, and revealing Moses' true image, his true identification, one of potential, ability, confidence, courage and leadership, as He sees and shows each of us today, right now – our true image, our true identification, our true potential. This Moses story is a promise, a commitment, a certainty of the presence of God's grace.

And this is just in the beginning of the Bible! There are hundreds, maybe thousands of these promises, commitments, certainties throughout the Bible, that each of us can rely on and they are the very foundation, from which we each can work out from, to be the nurturing nurse we may sometime be required to be.

In preparation for this talk I decided to talk with some friends and family members who are currently serving as Christian Science nurses, and hear what is important to them. Here are some of their responses. I know you will find them as inspiring and uplifting as I did.

The first point made was the desire to do something based in the *Church Manual*, that couldn't be varied greatly by human interpretation. I love that thought! Another point was to fulfill Jesus' commands to be a servant, to wash one another's feet, his parable of the King in the Gospel of Matthew "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mat. 25:45). She follows with heart, "It is clearly, so Christian, so Biblical." Isn't that so very heartwarming, genuine and sincere? Yes! That's the kind of [Christian Science] nurse I want caring for me!

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Another shared that because the demand for pure Christianity is so high, as one does the work (a pure heart, loving, patience, receptivity, spirituality, joy, the fruits of the spirit, etc.), it is very obvious when one seemingly is falling short of that demand, but then, comes the recognition that mortal mind is trying to separate the laborers from the field, and under the guise of difficult “this” or difficult “that”. They continued, “I guess the difficulty comes in whatever cross we need to bear, ... until it’s no longer a cross anymore and we gain the crown.” I love this purity, insightfulness and right desire shared by my friend.

Don’t we, all of us, have a wonderful example of “winning the crown” through the story of Joseph from the book of Genesis. Remember the story of Joseph and how he handled adversity, in all the different crisis in his life? Mary Baker Eddy refers to them as trials. With each new adventure, trial, negative as it was, as hopeless as it may have seemed, Joseph was a model in the exercise of wisdom, good judgement, exhibiting calmness in crisis as well as leadership. He demonstrated an unshakeable faith, adaptability, grace, and courage. Simply, he trusted the presence of God’s grace in every circumstance. Joseph was unimpressed with the material circumstances and continued serving God, thus doing his highest sense of right, under God’s direction, in each and every situation, by realizing God’s constant, stable, consistent presence.

You might recall, Joseph was thrown into a pit by his brothers and left to die; then sold into slavery; then he was falsely accused of adultery, and thrown into prison. In prison, he was put in charge of some of the prisoners, and after a time he was summoned to interpret a dream for the Pharaoh of Egypt. Then he became the second in command of Egypt as a result of that interpretation of the dream.

I think it is interesting to note that when Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret his dream, Joseph went to God for the answer, and answered Pharaoh by saying, “... It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace” (Genesis 41:16).

We, too, can be a Joseph and immediately turn to, and acknowledge that it is God that gives us peace, guidance, stability, and confidence, in every situation, no matter how humanly serious it seems to be.

There’s no record of Joseph running to his friends, fellow co-workers, or a “higher” up, to change, alter, correct or take an action to rectify his situation. Rather, he expressed the stability of knowing that right where he was, right there, was the help he needed, recognizing the ever-presence of the one Mind to provide the solutions, the wisdom, the assurance, that all is well.

We too, can do the same even with all the dire predictions, assumptions, reports of unrest and disruption that seem prevalent in our world today. Just like Moses and Joseph, and the other prophets of the Bible, we can learn, listen and be obedient to God’s direction; we can and must be mentally and spiritually prepared to refute and replace the fake news of mortality, with the

reality of man's true identity and the world's true spirituality. We must not partake of the rotten fruit, the fabricated fruit, of the tree of good and evil. We must remain undisturbed amid the myriad reports; realize and acknowledge that the authority of the Science of Christ is still in operation, and is effective; that this divine Principle is infinite, embracing all mankind; and that this unity that exists between God and His idea, must be evidenced in life practice.

Eventually, Joseph's life came full circle as he was reunited with his brothers and father – even providing for them in time of great need, with genuine love and forgiveness. Each human experience Joseph passed through, essentially prepared him for the next step in the progress of his spiritual advancement. Isn't this winning the crown?

Like Joseph, we must actively, consistently, daily talk with God. God is our best friend, ask Him for guidance, let Him know your concerns, needs, doubts, uncertainties, your desires, intimately know His voice, and be ready to listen carefully when He speaks – and to be willing to follow His direction, “rejoicing all the rugged way”. It is having the humility to let go of any last bit of human will, or human comfort, and give ourselves entirely over to divine Love.

Our answers may come in a multitude of different ways, but you will recognize God's voice from your daily interactions with Mind, Love; they may come as inspiration, an “aha” moment, a suggestion from another, a needed resolution, or maybe, just maybe, the proverbial 2x4, we all sometimes need; but always, these messages bring peace. Be ready, willing and able, to accept what God has to offer without question, as Moses learned, and as did Joseph, Christ Jesus, and Mrs. Eddy.

Watch out for that sneaky, devilish enemy, the serpent, that may be laying at the door of thought, masquerading as good, and yet, actually barring the entrance of truth. Take decisive action to be mentally prepared, and insist on witnessing Truth alone, each day.

Life is a continuous thread of demonstrating the omnipotence of God, the presence of God's grace. If you were to write your own story, you would see how each step propelled you forward, made you grow, and gave you the tools of inspiration, patience, judgement, decisiveness, to be ready for the next adventure.

Mrs. Eddy tells us in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, “Remember, thou canst be brought into no condition, be it ever so severe, where Love has not been before thee and where its tender lesson is not awaiting thee” (p. 149:31-2).

Let's talk about *dominion* now. In Genesis I, God/Elohim has given us the *gift of dominion* -- a true gift. I have this image of God handing me this beautifully wrapped package, and saying “Here. Take this. It is the gift of dominion. Of self-government and self-knowledge. Use it wisely. Cherish it. Keep your eyes wide open to the proper uses of it. Don't waste it, or mis-use it. The beauty of this gift is that it won't ever wear out, get tired, need parts or breakdown, nor

does it ever get rusty from lack of use (perhaps a form of mis-use). Rather it is always fresh, constant, consistent, ever-ready, ever-active, ever-present. It is ours, for the taking. Accept it.”

And what is this dominion? It is defined as divine supreme authority. Who wouldn't want this gift, who wouldn't want to use it, cherish it, and make it our own? And isn't it the presence of God's grace, just waiting to be utilized?

Didn't the Master show us the way to have dominion or power, by disclosing the basis and Principle of dominion, when he said, "I can of mine own self do nothing" ... "I and my Father are one" ... "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me." (See Gospel of John).

Mary Baker Eddy describes it this way. "Jesus cast out evil spirits, or false beliefs. The Apostle Paul bade men have the Mind that was in the Christ. Jesus did his own work by the one Spirit. He said: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." (See *Science and Health*, p. 79).

So, you see, it's all laid out for us, isn't it?

Jesus acted with power by reason of his relation to God — by virtue of man's unity with infinite Mind, and showed us how to do the same, thus expressing complete dominion.

What might be the main reason, for the lack of man expressing dominion? Isn't it the common error that man believes he is a material selfhood, dependent on self, and separated from the infinite Mind? Like Moses, like many folks, we may mistakenly think we are separate from infinite Mind.

This dominion, or authority, isn't based on some kind of material superpower. It is based on the natural and obvious supremacy of divine Spirit over its supposed opposite, matter. It's a supremacy implicit in the very fact that, according to Genesis I, God/Elohim has created man in His own likeness—spiritual, and not material. We aren't then, subject to, or subservient to, earthly influences from the tree of good and evil found in Genesis II, which isn't real anyway.

Many theologians through the centuries have felt that humanity has lost the gift of dominion. The second and third chapters of Genesis demonstrate allegorically, just how that loss is believed to have occurred. In this material account of creation, "the Lord God" creates a man who's the very antithesis of the man in the first chapter of Genesis, the man with dominion over all the earth. This second man, we refer to as the "Genesis II man", this man is made of matter; he's not the image of Spirit. And, far from having dominion over the earth, he appears to be weak, easily swayed, impressed, and manipulated into disobeying God and rejecting His authority. That surely doesn't describe any of us, right?

Why? Because Jesus Christ taught all of us how to have spiritual dominion as the children of God, showing us that we are actually the "image" and "likeness", the "workmanship" of our divine Parent. Jesus didn't just talk about dominion. He lived it by demonstrating the power of

God to overcome all types of false claims of the Genesis II man: dread diseases, insanity, power politics, financial insecurity, catastrophic events, and even death. How did he face these adversaries? Not by fighting back, or arguing, but by helping people, us, to understand that they could live where no oppression could touch them — in God's heavenly kingdom, giving man dominion over all the earth. *Isn't dominion then another way of demonstrating the presence of God's grace?*

Jesus demonstrated this dominion to us by teaching us the truth of being, through living it. As you know he consistently and constantly partnering with the Father; he expressed great calm, peacefulness, and was unflappable in every situation as a result of this God-given dominion, which we also have. To have this same presence, we must embrace spiritual power through spiritual sense as Jesus did, thus showing the nature of dominion as being normal and natural.

Dominion is the power to invoke the divine law, to maintain the divinely ordained order. It is the power to overcome evil with good, whereby God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. It is the power to dispel error with Truth and to demonstrate the truth of being. Mrs. Eddy stated, "The human mind will sometime rise above all material and physical sense, exchanging it for spiritual perception, and exchanging human concepts for the divine consciousness. Then man will recognize his God-given dominion and being" (*Science and Health*, p. 531).

How? Through "exchanging human concepts for the divine consciousness." Thus, experiencing the presence of God's grace. This is a lesson I had to learn several decades ago. For more than twenty years I was a single mom caring for my own four children and a niece. When asked how did I manage, I often would respond jokingly with, do you not see the callouses on my knees? Indicating, of course, a great deal of prayer. That always brought a slight laugh. But somewhere along the line, I realized that was putting all the onus, the responsibility completely on me, leaving God, the true Parent, totally out of the picture. Enter Moses again. Each time the Israelites would come to Moses with their fears, dissatisfaction, complaints, wants, and voicing their woes – what would he do? He learned to first go to God for direction, guidance, reassurance, and certainty. As I began, to more and more do the same, not only did my thought shift, but my response to the question changed too.

Developing a deeper dependance on my Father-Mother, and a better understanding about who was really caring for those dear children, and me also, as a child of God, my response became, by the "grace of God". While I still may not have fully known or understood the impact of that statement, I was beginning to glimpse the presence and power of grace, that divine influence upon the heart, in my life, and how it was maintaining and sustaining our family. The result? We all made it. All in one piece. And we are all very close.

Speaking of children, how many of you teach Sunday School? We all may certainly need the presence of God's grace then, don't you think? Jesus had a practice of seeing beyond physical appearances to spiritual reality. When sick people came to him for help, he saw only a healthy

child of God within, and brought it out for them to see. Jesus' spiritual point of view transformed people for the better.

When teaching Sunday School there is an exercise that I would do to illustrate man as idea, forever one with its source, unchangeable, unalterable, indestructible, and eternal. The students would draw a picture of something they liked, and giving them time to do it well, even sometimes supplying colored pencils to help make it as close to their mental picture as possible. Then I'd have each one describe what they drew and why. When all had shared, I would then tell them to crumple up the drawing.

Surprising right? Why would I do that? To illustrate the fact that the original concept was untouched, unmarred, unadulterated, unblemished – still and always in perfect order, intact, and whole. The concept remained perfect in thought, undistorted, unchanged, and even uncrumpled, unimpaired in any way. Then, I would ask the students the question, "Can mortal mind change, adulterate or destroy God's thought about you in any way?" Of course not! Mrs. Eddy expresses it this way: "Every object in material thought will be destroyed, but the spiritual idea, whose substance is in Mind, is eternal" (*Science and Health*, p. 267).

Doesn't this exercise help students practice seeing with the lens of Mind – to see beyond physical appearances to the spiritual reality? Doesn't it bring out the healthy child of God from within? And isn't that what we all are striving for – to look beyond the material to the spiritual?

Another Sunday School exercise we often did to emphasize the power and the ability to see only the spiritual concept of man, was to ask the students in the class which synonym each student felt she or he best expressed? And which synonym she or he felt was needed to express better, and why? This often-brought expected Sunday School answers which would then be questioned. What did they actually mean? Why it was important? Always encouraging them to dig deeper, and put it in their own words.

Then sometimes the answers were truly from the heart and needed the loving attention of all the students to work through the situation. Like the time one student said they needed to learn more about love.

When questioned why they thought that, they were very forthright and referred to another student in the class that they said they didn't like at all and certainly couldn't love. Wow! Definitely not a Sunday School answer, but a wonderful opportunity to explore further the true concept of the synonym of Love and how it related to the individuals and the situation. After recovering from the surprise of such honesty, one by one each student would put forth a question or idea that would cut through the material surface of things to the spiritual reality. One student suggested that they look for the commonality between them, and with joy, and surprise, realized that that commonality was based on the attributes of Spirit, not human characteristics. Another student pointed out that although their human circumstances were quite different, the fact that they both are an idea of God connected them so completely, how

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could there be any dislike or unloving feelings. The end result? They found many ways they actually were connected and a respectful friendship began to grow.

Mrs. Eddy says it best: "Holding the right idea of man in my mind, I can improve my own, and other people's individuality, health, and morals; whereas, the opposite image of man, a sinner, kept constantly in mind, can no more improve health or morals, than holding in thought the form of a boa-constrictor can aid an artist in painting a landscape" (*Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896*, p. 62).

I'd say, through *the presence of God's grace* we were able to do a lot of growing and improving that day! The Bible tells us that grace is not something we have to earn or deserve. The loving-kindness, mercy, and abundant joy of grace is a gift, freely received and freely given!

A few weeks ago, the phrase of "no unpredictability" kept coming to my thought. It's based on the conviction and understanding, as we learn in Christian Science, that there is only the uninterrupted continuity of good; that this is the scientific fact of "no unpredictability". In *Science and Health*, Mary Baker Eddy informs us, "... divine Science reveals the eternal chain of existence as uninterrupted and wholly spiritual; yet this can be realized only as the false sense of being disappears" (p. 172).

This illustrates for me, the fact, the scientific fact, of "no unpredictability", in relation to world situations, political circumstances, weather, human situations as well as any bodily action. We can know, must know, that all real action originates in and is governed by divine Mind, not by matter, or that any action can suddenly get out of control or lapse into abnormality. Fact: there is "no unpredictable" action, because there is "no unpredictable" God.

Well, one might say, what about the storms we just experienced? What about the political climate? What about the concern of financial instability? And what about the war in Ukraine? Do we just pretend they didn't happen or aren't happening, or it doesn't matter because it doesn't affect me. No! Absolutely not! We can and must hold with conviction and understanding to the fact of the uninterrupted continuity of good; that divine Mind provides wisdom, intelligence, ingenuity, discipline, and insight, for those that seem to be affected by the unpredictability of the human experience. Always blessing them in just the right way!

I can speak from experience, having lived on the Outer Banks, the barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina for a couple of decades, and having experienced many hurricanes, as well as the fact that my son and his family still live there. Two of the Bible verses I often worked with are: Proverbs 3: 25, "Be not afraid of sudden terror and panic, nor of the stormy blast or the storm and ruin of the wicked when it comes"; and from Psalms 138:8: "The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands." I witnessed many examples of protection, safety, storms dissipating, flood waters receding unexpectedly.

While we have seen over the years an increase in so-called super storms, fires, floods, all causing a great deal of damage, we must continue to know that *the presence of God's grace* is right there. Right where there seems to be so much devastation, this *grace* brings the healing of restoration, renewing, regeneration, reinventing, reestablishing and reinvigorating.

While listening to the Explanatory Note read from the desk last Sunday [October 2], a new and renewed inspiration flooded my thought. As you know it reads in part [emphasis added], "...constitutes a sermon un-divorced from truth (Doesn't that apply to our daily life as well? We must declare and establish, for all mankind, that there can be no separation, disconnect, abandonment, or devastation for God's idea, or God's plan of action for man.), uncontaminated (We must claim that our purity, righteousness, innocence, freedom, is unspoiled, untouched, unadulterated, and unblemished), and unfettered by human hypotheses (Know that we are unlimited, unrestrained, unhindered, unhampered, unrestricted, unimpeded, in every sense of the word, and are not, and cannot be held hostage to any human situation.), and divinely authorized (To me, this is the bonus, ... because we each, everyone of us, each individual is completely governed, maintained and sustained by divine Mind. We are divinely authorized to claim our peace, harmony, unity with the all-knowing Father-Mother God.) For the Bible tells us in Psalms 62:1-2, "...God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my Rock and my Salvation, my Defense and my Fortress, I shall not be greatly moved."

With many issues facing the world today, there seems to be no viable human solutions, and yet, we have Grace – the divine influence of the heart, reflected in life. Grace – God's free gift to man. Grace – divine power. God's grace is not miraculous. His grace appears in one's consciousness through the development of the Christ power. Through Christ Jesus, our Wayshower, who revealed the love of the divine Father and showed all mankind, how one can benefit from God's healing grace through prayer. Through this realization, the divine healing presence is operative, practical, evident to the human experience. Through grace, the patient is healed. Through God's grace, there's healing of the false sense of life in matter. Through His grace, thought is opened. This grace is the free gift of God to all. No one, absolutely no one, is beyond its saving influence. *The presence of God's grace is here, now, always!*

I'll close with a verse from Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..."

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