

A Lecture On Christian Science

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better in its place. This process is not one of self-depreciation, but a rightful sense of self-appreciation gained from an understanding of the real man in Science.

On the other hand, the deplorable practice of self-depreciation, self-condemnation, self-abasement, is as old as when Moses demurred to the call of God to lead his people out of bondage. Ask some of your friends, "Are you able to take this difficult assignment in my business?" or, "Will you speak at our club tomorrow?" or, "Will you take part in the business meeting of our church?" and then the excuses come. "I'm inadequate for the job; I shall have to prepare myself for a long time;" or, "I can't speak in public; I don't know enough; I am afraid." I dare say that we all have harbored such thought. Such doubts often work secretly in one's consciousness. The little gopher "I can't" has cut the roots of many a promising plant of high purpose, and laid it low.

Mrs. Eddy was not patient with the excuse, "I'll try," or, "I'll do my best." Rather she insisted on, "I'll do it," for she knew that when one questioned his own power to do something, he failed to know what the real power was that was doing it. Divine Mind possesses all power, capacity, ability, strength, intelligence, and man in Science possesses these qualities, direct from God by reflection. The motto of the Christian Scientist is, "I can because God can." Man's capacity is based on God's ability.

Do you not feel in your heart of hearts that you should be good enough, worthy enough, capable enough to do all things required of you adequately and well? This human longing to be thought of as truly worthy and necessary, springs from a deep, spiritual impulse that needs to be considered here. Let me illustrate: A gentleman, not a Christian Scientist, who had reached the top of his calling, that of a salesman of advertising, was asked by a friend how it happened that he had risen to such a point, and yet was so sincerely meek and humble. After some questioning he hesitatingly related the following: "When I started to sell, years ago, I was trained to be aggressive. I sold nothing. One day a housewife said to me, 'I don't need that article. I can do better without it.' In my discouragement I replied, 'Lady, you know a lot more about housekeeping than I do. If you say that this article is no good, I'll never try to sell it again.' She hesitated, and finally said, 'I did not say it was worthless. I think that it is a good article. I'll buy one.' I had made my first sale. I then learned the greatest lesson of my life, that I should let another know that I really felt that he was valuable and important." And he added, "You know that you cannot show that unless you sincerely feel it and believe it."

Isaiah writes, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him; he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." Respect your kingly office as a son of God, and that of your brother, likewise. Exercise your God-given dominion! Act upon your right to all good in every situation, and at all times! A certain king had not respect for his kingly office. He belittled it—and he lost it. You will not lose your place as a son of God, if you first recognize it; second, utilize it; third, glory in it.

Impersonalize Both Good and Evil
An interesting and helpful point in the practice of Christian Science is to impersonalize both good and evil. Because we are accustomed to think from the personal standpoint, it keeps us from seeing that all good comes from God. The source of all good is the one, universal, everlasting God. It is the same source from which Moses drew his revelation of the Ten Commandments and his masterful guidance of the Israelites; the same source from which Daniel gained his safety and deliverance from the brutality of his captors, and Jesus his spiritual power to heal and instruct the people. When someone referred to Jesus as possessing good in a personal way, he replied, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." He made the separation between himself on the one hand, and both good and evil on the other. That very separation became a wall of protection around him. He learned how to impersonalize praise, and this enabled him to impersonalize censure as well. Think of the words of praise that come to you as not personal, but as the recognition of good that comes from God. Also in viewing our lifework, let us not make the mistake of saying to ourselves, "My hand hath wrought this! My mind conceived it!" All the good we have, or ever will have, comes from the source of infinite good alone.

Because Jesus took nothing unto himself as personal to himself, he was able to protect himself from the malice of his foes. Unless one is able to and does impersonalize good, he will make poor work of impersonalizing evil. It is said that a boa constrictor is not particularly dangerous unless it finds a convenient tree around which to wrap its tail, that it may have a leverage by which to attack its victim. If we refuse to see person as the cause of our difficulties, then those difficulties have nothing upon which to fasten themselves, and they soon disappear under correct mental work.

A young man of my acquaintance was working in an office in which the superior was a man who had made the employees unhappy for many years, due to his domination, criticism, and unfairness. Dislike and even hatred were mutually interchanged. The young man, a Christian Scientist, began to impersonalize the situation by realizing that man in reality is the beloved son of a loving Father, possessed of the Christ-Mind which was never a channel for evil. In a short time the character of the man underwent a change; criticism and unfairness disappeared; and he and all in the office became free and happy.

If we refuse to entertain a thought of any individual as the source of malice, hatred, or evil, then we disarm error, and Truth destroys it. Error or evil is not person, but a belief, and we protect ourselves and others by impersonalizing it. The broken electric cable may be dangerous, but one encounters no difficulty so long as he does not take hold of it. Evil cannot come to you. Be sure you do not go to it. Evil has no real existence, because nothing exists outside of God.

Prayer and Healing
When we say that the method of healing in Christian Science is that of prayer, the prayer of realization of the truth of God and man, we take it out of the category of mind-cure, will power, hypnotism, and the like. They are the antipodes of Christian Science. Nor is this prayer mere faith-healing. It is the prayer of spiritual understanding.

A common viewpoint about prayer is that one should beseech God through supplication that He might place in the lap the thing desired, provided that the voice is loud enough and the lap large enough. Man needs no more than God has already provided, with a love for His children which transcends that of any earthly father. Prayer does not give us something new. It changes nothing real. But it does show what we already have, what unlimited power and intelligence we already possess, and how we may make use of them. In so doing it removes the limited sense of man, long entertained, renders thought transparent to the truth, and thus reveals the unlimited man of God's creating. In bringing to light the real man, the false sense of man disappears.

Some of the most valued paintings by artists of world renown have been hidden for centuries by figures superimposed upon the original by later painters. By means of delicate process of removing the layers of paint, sometimes five or six, through patient and intelligent effort, the original has been brought to light, in clearness and freshness, to delight and inspire art lovers of the present day. In the process of removal, it is not necessary to study the paint and figures thus falsely imposed, but to discover the valued original. With the same careful, patient, and painstaking effort, one may remove the layers of selfishness, self-depreciation, lack of ability, frustration, weakness, neglect, laziness, wasting of time, and all evil tendencies, which discourage and defeat him. They are the false veneer which hide one's real worth. Our value is not placed upon us by others; it is the evaluation we place upon ourselves. When we do place it high enough, others respect that valuation and honor it.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the highest exposition of spiritual truths ever given to mankind, Jesus in succinct language gave to us his understanding of prayer or treatment. "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." He adopted a metaphor with which he was familiar. Houses of the East usually accommodated several families in one large room, with no privacy. Many recited their prayers by rote in the open, but the more devout sought a quiet spot away from the clamor; and some of them even went to the small closet in the wall with its tiny door, provided for supplies and valuables, and entering in, they would close the door, and there pray to the Father.

To "enter into thy closet" means to realize the omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience of God, His allness, including His spiritual creation and spiritual man. One may rest for a time in the realization of the adorable One, the cause and origin of all that really exists. If fear

and confusion darkens our thought it would be well to start with simple truths which we can easily grasp, of the tender, loving Father and Mother, more firm and faithful than any earthly father, more watchful than a loving shepherd over his flock, more loving than a most saintly mother; the very presence here and now, of Love and power. Then as thought ascends we may recognize the divine Principle, Love, with its universe of spiritual ideas. God is always where man is, and man is always where God is.

Next we are told to "shut thy door." During the period of a severe storm in my home city, mud and water filled the roadways on the hillsides. A beautiful home had its lawn and doorway under the level of the street. Much debris covered the lawn up to the door sill. One of the occupants, being curious, opened the door to see the sight. As she did so, mud and water poured in the doorway forming a wedge which interfered with the closing of the door. Instead of trying to clear it and close the door, the person ran away in dismay, and in a short time the floors and rugs were covered with water and debris. If, in an unguarded moment, we open our mental door to the debris of fear, medical beliefs, selfishness, self-will, sin, hatred, and the like, we need to shut it promptly by means of spiritual realization, that is by denying the lie of the material senses, and affirming the truth of spiritual sense. This method of argument, in greater or less degree, is ordinarily an essential in treatment.

Finally we are told to "pray to thy Father." This final step is the consciousness that under God's government all is well, that God knows no evil, no sickness, sin, nor death. As Habakkuk says, "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." The highest healing prayer that banishes disease and fear, is to know the perfect Love that casteth out fear; and to know that fear cannot enter the consciousness filled with Love alone. Be conscious of that love which embraces humanity, enfolding it in the realization of Love's ever-presence and all power.

You will note that Jesus' injunction ends with this, "And thy Father shall reward thee openly." Man does not heal, but God does. Man can only realize the Truth, for the Truth is the only physician and healer.

Healing the Body
It might reasonably be asked at this point, How does realization of the Truth heal the body? The recovery follows when the cause is removed. What is the cause of disease? All readily admit that marked bodily changes follow mental changes. Water flows from the eyes when one is grieved; sudden fear produces cold perspiration, sometimes death; anger produces a change in circulation with flushed or pallid cheeks, and other changes to the digestion, heart, etc. From an Associated Press news story of May 29th, 1943, the following is of interest: "Discovery of a poisonous substance which appears suddenly in the human blood during fear and anxiety was reported to the New York Academy of Medicine May 27th, 1943. . . The strange human worry substance mounted in proportion to the rise of fear, worry, or other emotional upset. . . The physical changes are frequent and varied. They often result in physical diseases whose only cause appears to be a state of mind."

My friends, Mrs. Eddy has been telling this to the world for over sixty-eight years. It is true that fear, worry, grief, despair, hatred, can make a man sick, then why administer tablets and medicines to make him well? Remove the fear, worry, hatred, through the operation of divine Mind, and the man is healed successfully and permanently.

Salvation
Salvation is the saving of a man from the pains and pleasures of his own false beliefs. It is more than a public pronouncement; it is an inner transformation whereby the Christ-power as Jesus understood it, prevails over sin, sickness, and death. "Work out your own salvation," is a command which is possible to obey. Right thinking which leads to right acting and living, is the passport to heaven. "Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind," as the textbook states (p. 291).

Sin is intentional wrongdoing. God does not punish sin; He does not have to; sin punishes itself through mental and physical suffering, until the sin is given up. There is no escape from this mandate that sin kills itself. We should not be disturbed by seeing the wicked prosper. He who indulges in sin, lust, dishonesty, hatred, selfishness, pride, and the like, may roll along flashily, like a new automobile, unmindful of the nail in the tire which drives deeper and deeper with every revolution of the wheel, until it pierces the tube of inflated egotism and leaves one flat.

Safety for Those under Arms
How may one use Christian Science as a protection for loved ones far away on the field of battle, and for the prosperity of our countries under

arms? Thought recognizes no limitation of distance. In consciousness you are present with your loved ones now. Nothing can separate you. We read (Science and Health, p. 559), "Scientific thought reaches over continent and ocean to the globe's remotest bound." The power of Truth is instantly present and operates everywhere, every moment. Your word of Truth, uttered and understood, reaches beyond human limits and brings peace, security, and safety, wherever the need may be. Thus, daily and hourly, one may render effective support to those in need, whether they be on land, in the air, or on or under the sea.

As distance raises no barrier to effective prayer, so the fact that there are great numbers of those who may be in need of help does not render divine aid less effective. I am intimately familiar with the following incident during the first World War. One of the large cantonments of eighty thousand men was beset by a sudden epidemic, and paralyzing fear settled like a blanket over the camp. Daily there was unprecedented human loss. Officers as well as men appeared somber and frightened. The brigadier general, commanding officer of the camp, was a Christian Scientist. He and the Christian Science Camp Welfare Worker, together with another Christian Scientist, one evening resolved that that night each of the three would, in his separate abode, take up the problem in continuous prayer for deliverance of the camp. This was done. The morning broke clear and bright. Men along the company streets appeared changed. They were relieved and gay. Officers whistled as they entered headquarters, and some inquired what had taken place to change things so markedly. The enemy, fear, had fled in the night as did the Syrian hosts of old, and the epidemic began to subside from that day.

Christian Science prayer, borne on wings of Love, reaches immediately those in need. It aids in promoting wise decisions on the field of battle and among the nations. Its tender ministrations bring succor to those beset with fear, firmness to the discouraged, deliverance to those in danger, and brings "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding."

Conclusion
In conclusion: The purpose of Christian Science is to present to a world in need, the practical, operative power of prayer, which is based on the Bible, and fulfills Jesus' command to heal the sick and sinning, and comfort the sorrowing. It shows how our lives may be transformed through eliminating the mental traits and characteristics which impede our progress in the home, in society, and in the business world. It shows us how through effectual prayer we may bring protection and safety to those loved ones near and far, and may aid in directing the course of the nations from darkness to light—and victory. In the words of the poet Whittier, who was healed by Mrs. Eddy at his home in Amesbury about 1868: Then, brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother,

For where love dwells, the peace of God is there:
To worship rightly is to love each other;
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of him whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

"The Fighting Seabees" At Roxy Sunday, Mon., Tue.

Because no one could take the time to distinguish between the actual Seabee members and the actors and extras who wore uniforms for Republic's picture, "The Fighting Seabees" which opens Sunday for a three-day showing at the Roxy Theatre, members of the cast found it expedient to learn all Naval courtesies.

During the time the picture was filmed at the camps where Seabees were in training, the entire cast present followed all regulations, hitting the deck at 5:30 every morning, lining up for flag raising, and saluting officers. At ten each night they "hit the sack" and obeyed Taps.

"If ever anyone lived a role," they told friends when they returned, "we did."
Instead of the stars of the picture being besieged for autographs during their stay at the camps, it turned out to be the other way about. The actors clustered about the men they were portraying. The reason was that the men were all doing work interesting to every other man, from landing practice and combat drill to running steam shovels and bulldozers.

Before the shooting of the picture ended at Camp Pendleton, every actor had learned what it was to be a Seabee, and in fact, most of the cast

were so enthused they became self-appointed recruiting staffs on their return to Hollywood.

They found that the Seabees have an esprit de corps that is one of the most infectious in the world. It confided in the fact that the Fighting Seabees "Can Do."

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