

SECURITY

Articles republished from the Christian Science periodicals
Published as a pamphlet in 1918 by
The Christian Science Publishing Society
and now in the public domain

Published in e-book transcription and presented as a gift of love by
cslectures.org

*"The 'still, small voice' of scientific thought reaches
over continent and ocean to the globe's remotest bound.
The inaudible voice of Truth is, to the human mind,
'as when a lion roareth.'"*
— Mary Baker Eddy

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CONQUEST OF FEAR

FEAR is the world's greatest enslaver. It is an emotion excited by an assertion of a power opposed to God. It is an element of every disease, and death is but its apex. All the passions of the carnal mind, the envy, deceit, ambition, which are the essence of unrighteous war, are allied with fear. The battle grounds of history have recorded the clash of different phases of fear, and the fiercest struggles of individual consciousness are those in which some form of fear is the principal opposer. The real victor which emerges from the individual or the collective conflicts of the human mind, is the man or the nation that has conquered fear through faith in the power of right.

From the beginning to the end of the Scriptures, the admonition, "Fear not," is insistent. In the great individual and national crises, the first indication of divine aid usually appeared in the injunction against fear. It is clear from this that there must be a deep underlying reason for the importance attached to the destruction of fear. This reason is found in John's declaration that "God is love," and in his further explanation that "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." Fear is a denial of Love, and it suffers from its own belief that there can be reality in aught that is unlike God. In proportion, then, that consciousness rises into unity with divine Love, a man is freed from his fears; and as fear is cast out, those dangers which had seemed so real, one by one melt away into nothingness. Perils of every nature are thus seen to be coexistent with fear; and the destruction of fear is the destruction of the effect of fear.

In their most poignant hours of terror; men have often instinctively felt that God is their only possible deliverer. They have prayed in a blind way that God might interpose and save, through some miraculous power, from evils that are real. Blind faith in the best concept they have of God may have many times relieved them of their fears by exchanging these for a confidence which approaches more nearly to the truth, but it leaves the latent fear ready to spring forth again at some fresh assault of danger. This is not the scientific overcoming of fear as illustrated in the Scriptural records and demonstrated by Christian Science.

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Fear cannot be definitely eradicated while it is believed that evil is a reality and has power. Fear is vanquished when it is understood that God is All, and that there is nothing which is able to dispute His power. Every object of fear upon earth is simply the manifestation of some belief held in the carnal mind which is itself the essence of fear. When it is seen that the carnal mind which fears is unreal, because it is no part of God's creation, its objects of terror can no longer terrify, because they, too, are then exposed as falsities. Mrs. Eddy writes on page 454 of Science and Health, "The understanding, even in a degree, of the divine All-power destroys fear, and plants the feet in the true path, — the path which leads to the house built without hands 'eternal in the heavens.'" Conquest of all fear is not achieved without much effort. It must result from the experience of numerous victories over the little daily fears; over timidity, self-distrust, worry, anxiety, moral cowardice. Spiritual fearlessness and courage is developed in just the ratio that consciousness unfolds in the understanding and reflection of divine Love.

The instinctive desire for flight, which accompanies fear, never opens a true escape from danger, as Moses learned when he fled from before the serpent. When he went back to take up the serpent, and it became a rod in his hand, — the rod he had cast down, — he learned that his fear, and indeed all fear, was due to an illusive belief in evil as power. The understanding of the allness of God, which destroyed his fear of evil, was the power that enabled him later to say to the children of Israel when they were fleeing before Pharaoh, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day," and to stretch his rod over the waters of the Red Sea. The spiritual courage that can "stand still" and realize the omnipotence of God and the powerlessness of all that is unlike Him, is inevitably directed in the way of deliverance both from bodily danger and from the temptation to sin. Even though that way may lead through the sea of human difficulties, nothing will be destroyed in the passage but the belief in evil.

When the disciples were terrified by danger upon the sea, Christ Jesus said to them, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" and he arose and stilled the storm. Again, when he walked to them upon the waters, through boisterous wind, he reassured them with the words, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid," and when he came with the rescued Peter into the ship,

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"the wind ceased." When the report came from the ruler of the synagogue's house that the little daughter was dead, Jesus said to the father, "Be not afraid, only believe," and the child was restored. It is evident that these words, if they had been uttered from the same level of belief where the disciples stood, would have had no power over peril of storm or death. The power behind the words lay in a knowledge of God which the disciples had not yet attained, but which is possible for all to achieve, as Christ Jesus himself taught and made abundantly clear for all time.

Jesus the Christ was fearless because he perfectly understood that God was not the creator of evil. He proved the nothingness of every material danger and disease because he abode in the truth and therefore understood that, as Mrs. Eddy says on page 377 of Science and Health, "the cause of all so-called disease is mental, a mortal fear, a mistaken belief or conviction of the necessity and power of ill-health; also a fear that Mind is helpless to defend the life of man and incompetent to control it. Without this ignorant human belief, any circumstance is of itself powerless to produce suffering."

Where God, divine Principle, is, there can be no fear, for divine Principle contains no element of destruction. A knowledge of this fact destroys any consciousness of danger. So it is the abiding realization that God is truly omnipresent and is Love that enables the human being in any condition whatsoever to prove that there is no cause to be "afraid for the terror by night," as the psalmist declared, "nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

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A MOTHER'S VICTORY

IN the past few months the writer has learned a deep lesson in Christian Science. When the declaration came that we were in a state of war, I began to awake to the fact that it might touch our home. For months my thought had been gradually changing through the reading of our periodicals, especially the *Monitor*, from a desire for peace at any price, to the understanding that peace established on any other foundation than Principle is not peace.

As time went on and the draft measure went through, the alarm felt was very great, and it became quite clear that faithful work on our problem must be done. Of course there was the possibility that our son would not be chosen, but this did not give any lasting sense of comfort. The thought that he might be called kept coming into my consciousness, and this thought was always met with the declaration that God places man and keeps him in his right place. While making this declaration, however, there was the hope that it would keep our son at home with us; but it was not long before I saw that this way of working was not honest, so I gave up outlining and turned forever away from contemplating any human help, to God, the only real helper. I realized that if God places man, and our son were called to serve, there was no question as to the issue, even if that issue were contrary to our expectations. The temptation to claim exemption also had to be worked over and conquered. There had been some feeling of satisfaction in that thought of exemption, but this proved to be a broken reed when I tried to lean upon it; and gave no support. By turning absolutely to God as the only support and strength, a measure of that peace which passeth understanding came to me, and I was enabled to say that if our son were called I was willing he should go. When the numbers were called and his among them, there was no sense of disappointment. I was ready to take the next step, namely, to "loose him, and let him go." Realizing that God was his Father-Mother, and giving up my human sense of parenthood I began to see that God could care for him much better than I could, for, humanly speaking, was I not helpless?

It is needless to say that the boy responded to this freedom, not even trying to claim exemption, and before we knew it he had enlisted in the

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navy. When the time came for him to depart, the presence of divine Love was again proved in the freedom, happiness, and joy which was manifested, and there was not one indication of sorrow or thought of separation. He has already proved for himself the power of Truth over discord by reading our textbook. After submitting to certain serum treatments, which all the men were given, he manifested symptoms of being quite ill. He then took Science and Health and retired to his hammock, and after reading about an hour, fell asleep. Upon awaking the next morning he was perfectly free, while all the rest of the company were still having difficulty. This was to him a convincing proof of the efficacy of Christian Science. When he related his experience to me, I thanked God for the circumstances which had made it possible for him to make his own demonstration, for heretofore it had seemed the easiest way to ask mother to do the work for him.

We mothers are learning more clearly what our Leader means when we read the following on page 277 of Miscellany: "But if our nation's rights or honor were seized, every citizen would be a soldier and woman would be armed with power girt for the hour." We are armed with power, the power from on high, and we can hardly find words to express our gratitude for it in times like these. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

We are experiencing some measure of that peace which Jesus left with us, and are being enabled to take our stand courageously on the side of God, our hearts filled with gratitude for the brave, noble woman who made it possible for us to gain this understanding of Truth which makes free. The opening lines of the Preface to Science and Health are coming to mean more to us than ever before, — "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings." Those blessings are received by us to-day just in proportion as we learn to lean on God and let His will, not ours, be done.

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HOME

WHO has not heard the expression, "Well, he is perfectly at home wherever you find him"? This often refers to the peculiar ability of some person to adapt himself readily to his surroundings, to adjust himself quickly and easily to changes of environment and of circumstances. But there is a higher sense in which one may acquire the ability to be truly "at home" though, perhaps, far removed from all that is humanly dear. This ability is derived from Principle and is not unlike what Paul meant by being "absent from the body" and "present with the Lord." It is based upon spiritual discernment of the fact that man does not exist in or because of matter and is not, therefore, dependent upon material things for happiness and contentment. Neither does man exist in time or space, but he is eternally at one with omnipresent Mind and reflects, spiritually, the qualities or attributes of Mind. Man, therefore, possesses the ability to manifest all those ideas that are in Mind, including the right or true idea of home. Being at home, then, is not a question of environment, circumstances, or association, but is purely a question of knowing. Mrs. Eddy, spiritually interpreting the sixth verse of the twenty-third psalm, renders it thus: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever" (Science and Health, p. 578). So, one who is conscious of the omnipresence of Love and Truth is truly at home, wherever, to human sense, he may seem to be.

Now, the thought of home building may be commendable, and it is generally believed that in the community where a large proportion of citizens own their own homes will be found the best quality of citizenship. It is, however, a fact that the home (house) for which one has labored long to acquire the right and title of exclusive ownership may be lost or destroyed in a day or an hour. And that very community which prides itself upon the quality of its citizenship may in fact, to a great extent, be deluded by the almost unconscious worship of matter in the form of self-ease, self-complacency, and self-righteousness. On the other hand, it is quite possible for the dweller in a rented flat or tenement, if striving to order his life according to Principle, to have a higher and better sense of home than the "representative citizen," who is the proud possessor of his "own home" in

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an "ideal community," but is yet without the true understanding of God.

Home, in the true sense, is not something that can be built or bought or rented. It is not a place within four walls, whether humble or magnificent. It is not even the mental state that creates the condition which is humanly known as home. It is a divine state of Mind. It is the conscious presence of Spirit, of Truth, of Love. It is absolute harmony, or heaven. Mrs. Eddy, on page 587 of Science and Health, gives us the following definition: "HEAVEN. Harmony; the reign of Spirit; government by divine Principle; spirituality; bliss; the atmosphere of Soul." And Jesus said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you." So home, or heaven, for they are synonymous, may not be found by going to some place or any place, nor can the real man ever be away from home, if, as has been shown, home is harmony.

When one has gained, through Christian Science, the true sense of home, that it is not a place or thing, but a divine, and, therefore, an omnipresent, spiritual idea, he can no longer be "homesick," whether he be to human sense alone in a great city, in a huge camp, on the battle field, or on the high seas. And those who remain "at home" can overcome the sense of separation and help to lift it from the thought of absent loved ones by knowing the truth about home. They can know that because home is idea it cannot be separate from man. For man is not a material body with a mind inside. He is not being transported or transferred from one place to another in time and space. Man is the fixed, permanent reflection of Mind. He is endowed by his divine Principle with the capacity and ability to express that which is in Mind — all true ideas. And this is true of Mind's idea of home, together with the thoughts of safety, comfort, tenderness, and loving-kindness, which are always associated with it.

Perhaps no painting ever had more compelling interest, at least for the layman, than the well-known picture called "Breaking Home Ties." And that is because it depicts an experience through which so many families pass, sooner or later. In these days of Armageddon the experience has come practically to all, in one way or another. But what the mother, the father, the friend, are called upon to sacrifice is not that which is real but only that which is relatively true about man. It is only to the false, human

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sense that separation can take place. One can never be separated from that which is true, because all that is true or real about those dear ones who seem to be away from home is in fact ever present in Mind and cannot be absent, even temporarily. Those who are at one in Principle are inseparable in their conscious knowledge of Truth and are always at home in Mind.

Although it was said of Jesus that he had "not where to lay his head," it can hardly be conceived that one with his understanding was without the right idea of home. He daily demonstrated that he dwelt in the liberating, life-bestowing consciousness of divine Principle which enabled him to say, "In my Father's house are many mansions." The understanding of what home really is not only frees its possessor from the sense of loneliness and separation, but also, in proportion to his perception and demonstration of Truth, frees him from the temptation to be envious, jealous, proud, anxious, and fearful. It lessens his disposition to look for security and satisfaction in matter. It brings him daily nearer to a realization of that "house not made with hands," that which has its abiding place in eternal harmony, that which manifests the invisible and indestructible substance of Mind. Thus Christian Science is seen to be the true "home builder" for weary and heavy-laden humanity.

A WORD OF CHEER TO A UNITED STATES SOLDIER

My Dear Boy: In war there is nothing more important than the right kind of confidence.

One of the tricks of the enemy is to get at you in such a way as to break your confidence.

Don't let him do that to you.

All the enemy propaganda has had this object in view.

Refuse to entertain such thoughts, just as you would refuse the temptation to commit a crime.

The enemy wants you to feel hopeless and full of forebodings, and whenever you feel that way you may be sure you are playing into his hands, and you can know that you cannot be fooled by that kind of strategy nor by any other kind.

The only hopeless side of this war is the enemy's side. Don't forget that fact.

Look at the history of the United States. Our forefathers had few resources, and only a small army, but they had Principle to maintain them. They had to oppose a foolish and tyrannical king, and although his conduct was repugnant to the best element among his own subjects, he had an army and great resources.

Outward things were discouraging to the American patriots, but their confidence remained unshaken. They felt that Truth and right in nations as in men are allied to God and partake of His invincibility. To maintain a confidence so founded makes nations invincible.

This is the spirit of our country and of the allied cause. It has always triumphed in the long run and will triumph now.

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Confidence is really what the French call the morale of the army. The enemy, and their autocratic governments, by all the treacherous means it can muster, try to get you to think contrary to that spirit.

There is a calmness, and yet a swing, to democracy the world over. It makes one think of the Bible where God says of man: "Let them have dominion." Don't let go of it. The Bible also says: "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." You find it with the English, French, Italian, and other allied nations, where freedom is the habit of thought. This calm energy is founded upon Principle, and for that reason it sustained our allies through the trying years while we were waking up and getting ready to help.

You are allied with the soldiers and sailors of the greatest and best nations on earth, and they, together with our own, are the greatest and best soldiers and sailors on earth. Think what that means.

Besides that, the whole vast power and resources of our own government are back of you every minute. Every man, woman, and child is personally interested in you. Your family consists of a hundred million people and they are all ready to make any sacrifice for your sake and for the sake of the country and the cause that you stand for. Their every thought is a prayer for you, and because that prayer is not tainted by any kind of selfishness it reaches God and is answered.

For the same reason your own thought and actions should be guarded. Mary Baker Eddy writes on page 304 of "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," "Divine Principle is the Life of man." If everything that you do, even the smallest task that duty or discipline requires, is done with the thought and endeavor to make it perfect, and at the same time spontaneous and energetic, you are praying, because you are reflecting the divine Principle, God, whose nature is perfection.

This helps you to commune with God, because God is thus seen to be ever present, and surely the presence of God is safety. "Mortal man can never rise from the temporal *débris* of error, belief in sin, sickness, and death, until he learns that God is the only Life" (Science and Health, p. 289).

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Then as "God is the only Life," God is your life, and you are safe in the very face of danger.

You are to know this, and we are to know it, and in the strength and security of that knowing you are to return triumphant and in great peace.