

## WHAT HEALS?

Man is spiritual consciousness. Solomon, defining man, said, to “Fear [love] God, and keep his commandments” was “the whole . . . of man.” (Ecclesiastes) What is that but spiritual consciousness?

Of Jesus, it is related that he “did not need anyone’s testimony concerning a man for he of himself knew what was the man.” (John, New Testament, Revised)

It was that consciousness of what man is, and was, and ever shall be, that enabled Jesus to heal the sick, raise the dead, and do those many other wondrous works which have puzzled mankind until the revelation of the Truth to humanity in more recent years.

All through the Bible, we see the true man set forth. Chapter I of Genesis discloses him, and Chapter 21 of Revelation makes him plain. Between these we have what is known as the fall of man, or the rising of the mist of the carnal mind, or nothingness, through which the true man seems hidden.

Mankind’s difficulty seems to be the inability to dispel this mist, or to see through it, and thus reinstate in consciousness the true man, or spiritual consciousness. In one way or another, prophet and teacher endeavor to point out *this man*, and nearly always, if not always, it is done by means of symbols or parables.

The Christian Science student of today, through his reading and study of the Bible and other works dealing with spiritual things, understands these symbols and parables, and is consequently enabled to give to the waiting world that which he himself has been able to apprehend. Through years of consecrated study and the practice of what he has learned, the student has become aware of what man is. Since he has learned that *man* is spiritual consciousness, it behooves him to be conscious of spiritual things only, the things of God, and thus *be that man*.

The Christian Science practitioner is required, then, to maintain at all times that spiritual consciousness, for everything entering therein must partake of the nature of that consciousness.

It is as though one had a great pool of water. Outside this pool, there are vast numbers of his fellow men. They are all parched and dry; they plunge into the pool, and immediately they become saturated with the things of the pool of water. No dryness can be found there, or can enter the pool; those who enter the pool partake of the nature of whatever the pool may be filled with. In this instance, it is water; but if it were filled with any other liquid, those who enter would be saturated with whatever it might be. This result would be accomplished more or less quickly according to the apparel worn. If the person plunging into the water were free from clothing, he would become wet instantly; but if he were covered with some material which was more or less impervious to water, or other liquids, he would be a longer time partaking of the qualities, characteristics and

attributes of water or the other liquids. To the degree that the material was waterproof, to that degree exactly would time be required for him to partake of the nature of whatever the pool was filled with.

The practitioner, who is endeavoring to heal the sick and help humanity, must then, if he is honest, maintain this spiritual consciousness night and day, sleeping and waking, in season and out of season, or else he will be unable to give the help asked for. In such a case, it would be as though he had permitted the pool to run dry; whereupon, those who sought the cool, refreshing water would not only be deprived of this cooling and refreshing means, but they would continue to remain as they are, dry, suffering from the parched condition, and thrown upon the hard and uncharitable bottom of the pool. "And the last state of that man is worse than the first." (Luke)

The Christian Science practitioner, as a matter of fact, is not a person at all, but is *man*, or spiritual consciousness. He is the ark of spiritual consciousness, wherein safety is sought and found from the waters of the carnal mind which threaten to engulf those appealing for help. In Genesis is related the story of the ark, which most of us have read, and which has been referred to by the author in this book and previous books. This ark is typical of spiritual consciousness. Everything entering therein, went in two by two, male and female. What could this mean other than that everything entering the ark was complete, entire, whole and perfect? Just as dryness cannot enter into the pool of water, neither can anything incomplete nor imperfect enter the ark of spiritual consciousness.

The practitioner of the Science of Christ is the Holy City, wherein nothing can enter "that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie;" wherein there can be no death, sickness, tears or crying; wherein there can be no sorrow, no evil of any kind, no hunger or thirst, or even darkness, "for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Therein are "streets of gold," walls of jasper," "gates of pearl," and the "foundations are of precious stones," all, of course, symbolizing spiritual things or the things of God. (Revelation)

Whoever enters this ark, or Holy City, is purged from his sin, sickness or death, and is brought into health, life, happiness, love, prosperity, peace, as certainly as one who is dry and dusty is freed from these conditions, and is refreshed, and partakes of the nature of the liquid in the pool, when he enters therein.

The operation of this automatic action depends not only upon the spiritual consciousness of the practitioner, but upon the child-likeness of him who comes into this consciousness seeking help. If he is unclothed of his "filthy garments," the result is instantaneous; but if he has on the garment of worldliness or corporeality, he must cast it away from him, even as the blind man, reaching out for entrance into the spiritual consciousness of the Christ, and "casting away his garment," rose, and came to the Christ, and was instantly healed. (Mark)

It is utterly impossible for one to carry his sins, or sicknesses, or discordant conditions into the ark or the Holy City, into spiritual consciousness, or the practitioner. Jesus knew this. On one occasion, there was brought to him one who had been ill a long time. He said to him: "Thy sins are forgiven thee" (Luke) Jesus could do this just as readily as one, seeing another who is parched and dry dive into a pool of liquid, might say to him, "You are no longer dry."

The people who were antagonistic to him, marked this statement of Jesus as

blasphemous; thereupon, Jesus said in effect, "Do you think it is of the slightest consequence whether I say to the man rise up and walk, or say to him thy sins be forgiven thee. To show you that it is of no consequence which I say, for no evil of any kind, be it sin or sickness, can enter spiritual consciousness, I will tell this man to rise up and walk." Whereupon Jesus did so, and the man was healed in the twinkling of an eye.

Jesus was able to do this because he knew that *man* is and was spiritual consciousness, and always will be so. To *this man* (spiritual consciousness) a person reached out for help; this person, as it were, dived into the pool of spiritual consciousness. As he stood at the brink before plunging into this spiritual consciousness, he believed, and to all intents and purposes, he was both sick and evil; but after entering this spiritual consciousness, he was freed from these conditions, for evil could not enter spiritual consciousness any more than could dryness enter a pool of liquid. Jesus stated this fact with perfect confidence and authority because he knew it to be true, even as we know it to be true that dryness cannot enter a pool of liquid. As water, or any other liquid, dispels the dryness, so the entry into the pool of spiritual consciousness heals the seeker for help of both his evil and his disease. "The highest spiritual Christianity in individual lives is indispensable to the acquiring of greater power perfected Science of healing all manner of diseases." (*Message to the Mother Church for 1901*)