
THE RATCHET

A ratchet is an attachment to a machine, a jack, we shall say, whereby when the handle of the jack is moved in a certain way, it just goes, click, click, click, and nothing happens; but move the handle the other way, and the cog of the ratchet takes hold, and as the handle is moved, the jack lifts the car or does whatever is required of it.

Christian Science is like that ratchet. It is effectual when properly applied, but if improperly, it simply goes click, click, click and nothing is accomplished other than the result of human faith or blind belief. Properly applied however, the power which is God's, is irresistible. "He uttered His voice and the earth melted." Nothing can stand against it. Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures states on pages 410/23 "The Science of mental practice is susceptible of no misuse."

The next sentence is as follows: "Selfishness does not appear in the practice of Truth or Christian Science." When self or selfishness does appear in the practice of Truth or C. S., the ratchet is being used the wrong way, and so it just goes click, click, click, with no result whatsoever; but get self out of it so that selfishness does not appear, and the power of God itself is present with its positive efficiency to bless, heal, and save, and nothing can withstand this power of God, even if it be necessary in the course of fulfillment to make the sun stand still, as in Joshua's time, or as in Moses' time, to cause the Red Sea to part and save the Children of Israel, while conversely by the return of the waters to their natural state, the Egyptians were destroyed.

Self enters or appears whenever you yourself try to do something—when you yourself try to realize or "know the Truth," try to "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true" (S & H 261) or to do other similar things. To this challenge someone says "Surely the Bible and textbook tell us to do those very things?" They do indeed, but these things are not to be done by the

human self, by the person, but rather are done for the person. When you yourself try to realize or "know the Truth" or make the attempt yourself to "Hold thought steadfastly, etc.," you are endeavoring to accomplish the impossible, for you are using the human mind in your attempt to do so. The human mind and its thinking is the only thing which you or any other person can work with to do anything. The moment a person tries to "know the Truth," "Hold thought steadfastly" or other like things, he uses the human mind, for were it the Christ Mind, the one Mind, that Mind "which was also in Christ Jesus," it would use or direct the person, rather than the person do the directing; but whenever the person endeavors to do whatever it may be, he uses the human mind. It is impossible for him to do otherwise. Thus has self or selfishness appeared, and so this attempt to heal, or save, results simply in click, click, click, and nothing happens. The human mind cannot "Hold thought steadfastly" to anything, much less spiritual things, it cannot "know the Truth" or realize it, for even if it does seem to do so for a time, yet the next moment it is just as liable to reverse itself and do just the opposite and believe the error or "Hold thought steadfastly" to something utterly opposed to "the enduring, the good, and the true." We have all experienced this trait of the human mind, and should know there is no continuity whatsoever in the human mind, indeed if there were, it would be the true Mind, and not the human.

The fundamental of Jesus' teachings was the allness of God, and as a necessary consequence the very basis of his work was "deny yourself." So instead of trying with the human mind to "know the Truth," etc., which is an utter impossibility, we must let this mind fall into innocuous desuetude—harmless disuse,— we must "silence the material senses" (S & H 15), still the human mind, or as Jesus said "Take no thought" (not take right thought, for that instantly injects the human mind again) we must stop trying of ourselves to do something of ourselves, or as the Master said "deny self," for surely if Jesus said "Of myself I can do nothing" (meaning by "self" the person, with the human mind) it must be evident that neither we nor another person can assist God, for he said "the Father within, he doeth the work." Then just to the degree that one

is able to accomplish the stilling of the human mind or "silence the material senses," he has rolled away the stone from the door of the tomb in his consciousness wherein the Christ, the actual presence of God, has lain dormant or buried deep beneath the debris of human mind thinking, and then does the Christ, the actual presence of God, arise and bless him, and this Mind which was the Mind "which was also in Christ Jesus," becomes his Mind. Then *this* Mind "knows the Truth," realizes it, "Hold(s) thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true," but this Mind does these things for the person, for it is done by the volition of the Christ Mind and not by the person himself with the human mind. Indeed this Mind, the one Mind, could not do anything else, for thus does it function according to Principle. Self is eliminated. No longer do we ourselves strive interminably to direct things by human mind endeavor, but instead "the unlabored motion of the divine energy" (S & H 445) operates for him who really does "let go and let God."

The definition of "right" in any dictionary is "in opposition to wrong" or "opposed to wrong," so it at once becomes evident that God, the one Mind, or the Christ Mind cannot think right, for it can never think in opposition to wrong, because it has no consciousness of an opposite, for "God is All-in-all" (S & H 468). God's thoughts are not right, they are perfect. Right thinking is always done by a person and with the human mind; indeed the only devil there is is this human mind; it is "the tree of knowledge of good and evil" or better translated "the mind of right and wrong thinking" and therefore it must be cut down root and branch. Right thinking will never produce or promote the Christ, but the advent of the Christ into consciousness or Christian Science will promote or produce right thinking in the human race and in the world itself, and right doing also. Right thinking is where self enters or appears, and so the ratchet simply goes click, click, click, with no result; but the advent of the Christ into consciousness which is true Christian Science, produces or promotes right thinking and right action—which is healing and salvation. This is corroborated by the next sentence of the previous quotation on page 410, "If mental practice is abused or is used in any way EXCEPT TO PROMOTE RIGHT THINKING and doing, the power to heal mentally will diminish, until the practioner's healing ability is wholly lost."