

CHAPTER VIII

SPIRITUALIZATION OF THOUGHT IS THE GREAT NECESSITY

Advancement Comes Through Enlightenment

Mrs. Eddy saw that what has prevented harmony and peace on earth more than any other one thing--in both individual and collective experience--is the ignorant belief that there is a God "out there" that can give us something. There is no God in heaven or on earth that can give us anything. The kingdom of God within our own infinite spiritual consciousness alone gives all; therefore if there is to be change for the better it must come through the development of our spiritual consciousness--through individual and collective spiritualized consciousness.

How do we spiritualize thought? Mrs. Eddy instructs:

Spiritual sense is a conscious, constant capacity to understand God [infinite, omnipresent good].... its ideas are expressed only in "new tongues;" and these are interpreted by the translation of the spiritual original into the language which human thought can comprehend. (S&H 209:31)

Translation gives us a new tongue. All that the eye beholds "must give place to the spiritual fact by the translation of man and the universe back into Spirit [Mind]. In proportion as this is done, man and the universe will be found harmonious and eternal" (ibid. 209:21). "Reform...is the crumbling away of material elements from reason, the translation of law back to its original language, Mind, and the final unity between God and man [infinite good and its reflection]" (Peo. 1:3). When our mind is free of error, it is the divine Mind.

The universal hypnotic suggestion that ideas have become material things, and that man can only have life or consciousness through the medium of matter, is the fundamental lie. Mrs. Eddy said, "When we find out we don't have a [matter] body nothing can touch us." Through translation the divine Mind gives us man in God's image and likeness, that is, gives us "body" as Mind's--our true Mind's--embodiment of right ideas.

This means that spiritual power is always present, but it can only appear to us as we put off a material sense of life, as we educate mortal mind out of itself by bringing every thought into obedience to Truth.

Our progress spiritward depends on the translation of matter into Mind. We have to do this because we do not see things as they really are; we only see our concept of them. Mortal mind, illusion, universal hypnotic suggestion, has classified spiritual ideas as matter or objects of material sense. Our work in Science is to translate the material objects back into their original form, so that we see them as divine facts.

That which brings peace and harmony into our own life will also bring peace and harmony to the world. To be concerned about the destructive forces in the world--unless we contribute something divinely scientific that can change the course of history for the better--avails little. What is needed is "a little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated. [These restore] the right action of the mental mechanism and make manifest the

movement of body and soul in accord with God" (Mis. 354:15). The divine Principle carries on its harmony. Our business is to know this truth. The emphasis is on the word "know." Truth is omnipresent even if we are ignorant of it. Only what we know of Truth is helpful.

"I Live; Yet Not I, But Christ Liveth in Me"--Paul

Christian Science instructs us to dwell on what we already are and what we already have because of the fact that "I and the Father [Mind] are one....And all that the Father [Mind] hath is mine." This great truth is the regulator, and we don't need to pour a bucket of water (a treatment) on it every ten minutes to make it work. (See S&H 428:22). I and the Mind that is Love are one, and all that Mind hath is mine. This is a great impersonal universal truth that applies to every man, woman, and child in the universe. The understanding and acceptance of this Truth would end greed and every form of discord, and bring into focus the ever-present reign of harmony, the kingdom of heaven.

We would then never again dwell on what I want or would like to have, what I should have, or what I need, because with the realization that "God is individual Mind" (Mis. 101:31), we would also realize that embodied within our own individual divine infinite consciousness is all spiritual Truth, all Life, all Love; and this Life, Truth, and Love is living me. It is the "I am that I am." Therefore, "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness [understanding], and all these things" money, home, companionship, a prosperous business, a contented heart--whatever we truly need to be boundlessly happy, bountifully productive and unceasingly expressive of infinite Love "shall be added unto you."

Once we realize this spiritual fact we are no longer living as just a mortal. We are living as "I and the Father [Mind] are one," and God liveth my life for me, as St. Paul said. Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love are now living my life. Thus we no longer live our life for our own sake. Therefore, whatever we need, divine Love, the spirit of God, takes care of. We no longer turn attention to ourselves. Rather, like Mrs. Eddy, "We get Mary out of the way." We let "I and the Father [Mind] are one" become our standpoint. We become an instrument through which divine Love carries out its plan of universal salvation; always remembering that "God is individual Mind [our Mind]. This one Mind and [its] individuality comprise the elements of all form and individualities" (Mis. 101:31).

Our Consciousness is the Invisible Substance of All That Appears

Christian Science teaches that everything that appears--everything that makes up this world--is formed of the invisible substance of this one Mind. The invisible substance is consciousness, your consciousness. There is only one infinite consciousness, and this divine consciousness is everyone's consciousness. "Existence separate from divinity, Science explains as impossible" (S&H 522:10). But if we think we have a mind of our own, or a consciousness of our own, we cut ourselves off from the infinite reservoir, the universal divine consciousness. This infinite divine consciousness is manifested as your individual consciousness. And when understanding reigns, your invisible consciousness appears visibly as every good thing needed to be an instrument to show forth infinite god's plan for the salvation of mankind.

How did the consciousness of Jesus appear? Wasn't it as food for the multitude, as sight for the blind, hearing for the deaf, feet for the lame, and life for those who had died? Wasn't it as the great Teacher of

spiritual facts concerning our true identity, our God-being? Did Jesus have to go anywhere for it? Wasn't it his own individual spiritual consciousness appearing as this healing and teaching work? Jesus was our great example. He never looked for help or supply to anything but his own infinite divine consciousness. We must learn to do the same. We cut ourselves off from the infinite ever-present supply of all good when we look for help to persons, places, things, conditions, circumstances, or to a God "up there."

Our Consciousness and God's Consciousness are the Same in Reality

There is only one consciousness. Evil and matter, per se, are illusions that have no real objectification. Infinite good conscious of itself is manifested as man. As God's instrument, our business is to let ourselves be a channel for God's love to flow through to all mankind. When we remember how unmistakable Mrs. Eddy makes it that God is manifested as individual consciousness, as individual Mind, then the great truth that all that the Father hath is mine, becomes clear also, because our consciousness and God's consciousness are one, are the same.

God as Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love is our Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love, which reflects itself in spiritual qualities. But in order to realize this, the "old man," a mortal sense of self, a selfhood apart from God, must be put off, must be educated out of itself.

It is materialism that clogs humanity's progress. Human beings have looked in the wrong direction for fulfillment of their desires. They have separated themselves from God's love, their own true Mind's love. They have personalized evil, personalized good.

They think of their supply as though they themselves could have anything. Jesus, however, plainly instructed: "I can of mine own self do nothing [have nothing, be nothing].... The Father [Mind] within me [the kingdom of God within me as my true Mind] doeth the works [has all, gives all]."

Mortals experience lack. Poverty isn't just being without food or shelter; it is the absence of love. People the world over are hungry for love, even dying for lack of love--they want to be somebody to someone. Yet, all the while the kingdom of Mind and Love within is capable of pouring forth more than they can accept. "Cast thy bread [the divine Truth you understand] upon the waters" and it comes back to you to fill your every need. Science and Health characterizes St. John's "Love one another," as "the most simple and profound counsel."

Mortals think they, of themselves, can have something; but again, this is illusion. All belongs to God, our true Mind. Love is of God, "the kingdom of God within you," and therefore in reality is infinitely manifested as man. Intelligence is of God, health is of God, prosperity, harmony, and every good thing is God manifested as man. "Mine and thine are obsolete terms in absolute Christian Science wherein and whereby the universal brotherhood of man is stated" (Mis. 318:2). Every quality, attribute, and thing is infinitely available to everyone on earth. (See My. 356:1.)

"Formed and governed by God [the Mind which is our Mind--and which is both cause and effect, both noumenon and phenomena], our individuality [is] safe in the substance of Soul, the substance of Spirit,...the substance of God, the one inclusive good" (Mis. 104:5).

We therefore must not personalize good, since "God is no respecter of persons."

As the spirit of God dwells in and illumines our individual consciousness, it flows out to bless others, to heal and teach. Everything that is good and right begins with an individual. The light always comes through an individual, as it came through the individual Moses, the individual Jesus, the disciples, St. Paul, Mrs. Eddy.

The illumined consciousness of Mary Baker Eddy spiritually educated millions in her time and is continuing to educate present day world thought. Her teaching is today prompting Protestant and Catholic churches the world over to turn their attention to spiritual healing. Out of Mrs. Eddy's demonstration has come a whole new religious concept, a concept of divine healing.

In Science we do not think of our supply, our health, our good. "There is none good but one, that is, God," said Jesus. We must realize the universal nature of every good quality, attribute, and thing, just as we see the universal nature of numbers and notes, and be willing to see universal good expressed everywhere on this planet wherever it is needed.

Accepting that "I and my Father are one," and that the kingdom of God is within our consciousness, frees us from the false belief that we can get good from God--from a God outside of our own consciousness. Jesus, our great Exemplar, taught: "I am the living bread [Truth]; I am the light of the world; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth, the life." And he made it clear that he was no different from us in any way except for a fuller understanding of his oneness with God, infinite good. He indicated that when we understand our true divine identity we would do even greater works than he was able to do 2000 years ago. The visible manifestation of this kingdom within becomes the instrument through which Love flows out to the world.

"Existence separate from God [our own real Mind], Science explains as impossible.... The great spiritual fact must be brought out that man is, not shall be, perfect and eternal" (S&H 522:10; 428:22). God's good is omnipresent, just as in a mundane way the multiplication table is omnipresent and always at everyone's disposal. Understanding alone is needed.

Remember, everything that is good begins with an individual. This is why Mrs. Eddy said: "God will heal the sick through man, whenever man is governed by God" (S&H 495:1). As humans, we are nothing, can be nothing, can do nothing. It is always God, our real Mind, doing it, never the manifestation or reflection. Man, the manifestation, is like the image in the mirror which of itself can do nothing.

However, when we get a personal sense of self out of the way, and attain divine realization, we are automatically one with God, our true Mind, and with what God is, namely infinite good. This then appears outwardly as form--as health, abundance, home, etc. The substance, which is Spirit, the only true Mind, remains invisible; this invisible substance is our consciousness.

Through Christian Science the human mind is educated out of itself. When the human mind has dropped all hate, envy, jealousy, greed, fear, all the lusts of the flesh--every form of error the divine Mind alone remains and can bring divine good into sharp focus. "The ultimate teaching of Christian Science is to

restore to man his consciousness of the divine Mind as his only Mind," and the Holy Ghost is the activity of the divine Principle everywhere at work in the world, executing the will of God.

Mortals are ignorant of their true identity; therefore it must be learned. This is why so much in the textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, aside from its absolute statements--is written on a lower level which instructs how Truth overcomes error. The textbook must state how Science looks to those who cannot look beyond the physical senses.