

CHAPTER II
MARY BAKER EDDY'S GREAT
SUBLIME DISCOVERY

The Seven Synonyms Depict Our Being

As a yellow winter sun edges up into the somber sky, the people of earth shrug to life and do their deals on cell phones. The Christian Scientist prays: "This is the day the Lord hath made: let us rejoice and be glad in it." They think of the scientific statement of being, and rejoice that they can "awake to know their present ownership of all good." But seeing rampant error everywhere we can't just sail on, fiddle and tap our toes—we can't just shake our head wearily and go about our material business—wary and wary of crimes that would slide us into an abyss, swallow up our God-being, leaving us a backsliding basket case.

"Why should we study the seven synonymous terms?" we might ask.

The answer is that there is nothing more fundamental to our being, to humanity, than the question: "What is God?" and its answer: "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love," *for these seven synonyms constitute our being*, namely "the kingdom of God within [us]," as our true consciousness.

To comprehend Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, an understanding of Mrs. Eddy's seven synonymous terms is therefore indispensable. The central subject of Christian Science is actually the investigation of the meaning of the seven synonymous terms. How do they operate? What is their purpose? How can we catch the meaning and spirit of these seven terms? *We must study these terms that Science and Health tells us constitute our being.*

These seven terms—Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love—are fundamental. They are the elements of our being. They are the groundwork, the basis of our being because they are really Being; they depict Being. The ideas of these seven synonymous terms depict *our* being. This means, when we approach the subject of the seven synonymous terms, we approach the subject of the one infinite Being which is our being. In reality *we are* incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love.

Ask yourself, "What is life all about? If there is only one Being that expresses itself through the seven synonymous terms, is it profitable to occupy thought with all that mortal mind presents—which is only hypnotic suggestion? Is it worthwhile to think about anything besides the seven synonymous terms and what they stand for?" When consciousness is engaged in the contemplation of the seven synonymous terms, it is pursuing the only line that is beneficially productive. Nothing else really matters.

This simple insight is so profound that we should remind ourselves of it daily, and we should accordingly

patiently discipline ourselves into an intelligent routine of studying and reflecting on these seven synonymous terms for God, our true being. Then we will not be misdirecting our activity, our time, and our energy to something other than that which alone *is*, which is the Holy Ghost, the divine Principle of activity everywhere at work in the world executing the will of God.

Mrs. Eddy, the First in Human History to Teach the Science of Being

The only thing that is, is Being, which Mrs. Eddy explains through the seven synonymous terms. We can do nothing more important than to contemplate the nature of God, the nature of this eternal one, our true Being.

As we do this we can't help but constantly nurture a great awe, deep gratitude and reverence for Mrs. Eddy's divine discovery. Mary Baker Eddy was the first one in human history to see and teach that evil is unreal and to reduce the infinite to categories that are complete enough to encircle and embrace the whole nature of Being. This sublime discovery, its teaching and demonstration, was Mrs. Eddy's great achievement as a divine Scientist.

A Science Demands Categories

Without categories the subject could not be stated in its Science. Science means we can break up the subject into categories; when the categories of Science are understood, and the relationship between these categories is

comprehended, we can compute infinitely—we can compute any idea in this infinite One.

Every science—whatever that science is—is always an infinite subject, and is always characterized by the fact that the subject under consideration can be categorized in definite categories that can be understood. The infinite as a whole can never be understood as a whole unless we were bigger than the whole. A science, therefore, has as its aim the reduction of the infinite to a few simple categories that can be grasped by a student.

Mrs. Eddy Found the Categories

Mary Baker Eddy found those categories of the nature of Being that enable us to understand the infinite One, and therefore to grasp our forever oneness with the infinite One. Understanding how these categories interrelate we can then calculate or compute infinite individual facts within this infinite whole. This was Mary Baker Eddy's great discovery. It enables us to find the answer to all our questions for all our life problems, and to find that evil is unreal, hypnotic suggestion only.

Gratitude For Mrs. Eddy's Discovery

Standing in awe before the immensity of Mrs. Eddy's discovery we should daily realize we are working on a subject that is infinitely vast in its implications of our true being when seen as one with Being itself. Our gratitude for Mrs. Eddy's presentation of the one *Infinite* should know no bounds.

When we recall that only a very few out of the billions of people on earth have actually glimpsed the pure Science in the Christian Science textbook, we, who have had that privilege, should feel blessed and know it is the “gift of grace, given unto us by the effectual working of His power.” We should therefore also feel we have a sacred responsibility, and hold it holy and pure. We should be willing to take a stand for it, and should be willing to give to this subject our life, our hope, our love, our time, our energy, and everything we have. If we do, then it will be revealed to us why we were somehow chosen by grace to learn and know about this aspect of Being.

Mankind has struggled for thousands of years trying to find a way to understand the infinite One. Religions and philosophies have all tried in various ways, but no one before Mary Baker Eddy has ever found an ordered scientific understandable way—a learnable, provable way—to get hold of this subject. So we begin to see the extraordinary grandeur and sacredness of our study, and its impact on present universal world consciousness. Mrs. Eddy gave much that Jesus could not give 2000 years ago, as people then were not ready for it.

Capitalization

Mrs. Eddy built her system of Christian Science on fifteen capitalized terms, which fall naturally into three main categories: (1) Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love are the elements of our being. (2) These elements operate in a four dimensional calculus called Word, Christ, Christianity, and Science. (3) These dimen-

sions in turn operate on four descending levels of spiritual consciousness, namely, Science itself, divine Science, absolute Christian Science, and Christian Science.

In capitalizing these terms *Mrs. Eddy gave the world a new language.*

The subject of this book is the first category, the elements of our being, the seven synonymous terms. These terms—mind, spirit, soul, principle, life, truth, and love—are used in everyday language, but by capitalizing these terms Mrs. Eddy meant for them to stand for something *divine, something spiritual and divinely scientific* that depicts our true being as one with the infinite One.

We can see why it is a matter of great moment and consequence to gain a mastery of this subject since it concerns the core and pith of our being. It tells us what we are as Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. As we approach these seven terms with reverence and adoration, standing in awe before them, feeling a sense of wonder well up within us, they begin to yield their substance to us, and we simultaneously feel the unimportance of whatever is not concerned with Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love.

With these seven synonymous terms for God Mrs. Eddy built a bridge to the language of Spirit, which is wholly spiritual. What she seeks to convey with these terms is spiritual reality in its deepest sense, in its deepest structure. Since these terms mean something totally different from what they mean when not capitalized, the new meaning Mrs. Eddy has given them must be learned.

Mrs. Eddy speaks of the difficulty of spelling out in the limited language of mortals, the deep language of Spirit. The underlying structure of reality is spiritual and cannot be adequately spelled out in any existing human language because human language is limited and ambiguous. As we proceed with our study we will gradually see that the deep structure-language of reality cannot be properly represented in *any* human language. Human language is inadequate to really define what is meant *spiritually*.

Mrs. Eddy didn't give up when she encountered this difficulty with language. Instead she looked for a method of approximation that would be good enough to lead thought to the point where thought could take over and perhaps by itself make the last step, the last jump, and begin to touch the spiritual language. With the capitalized terms she built a bridge from the human language to the language of Spirit.

A clear disciplined grasp of the English language, careful study of the meaning of the synonymous terms, and especially knowing the meaning of synonymity will help us free ourselves of the limitation of terms and instead promote the rhythm and touch of the spiritual.

The Building Blocks

The seven synonymous terms are the building blocks of reality in the Science of being. They reveal the nature of Being in spiritual reality. In arithmetic the ten digits are our building blocks. In music the seven notes are our

building blocks. Likewise, in the Science of being the seven synonymous terms form our foundation for mastering the subject.

These seven synonymous terms require our full attention. We can never say we have finished studying the seven synonymous terms. Our study of them can never come to a climax where we can say, "I have done it." We will always be aware that we have never fully seen the import of our true being as Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. We are embarked on a life-long study—a life-long polishing of our discernment, grasp, and comprehension of these terms, which are "the kingdom of God within [our consciousness]."

Why is this something incessant, needful of persistent pursuit?

Because we have to replace in our consciousness a deeply ingrained false sense—a material sense of those seven terms. It is a demanding task because it means a change of consciousness, a change of the inner attitude of consciousness. As we study the synonymous terms a change takes place; a consciousness begins to speak within us in a new language. As we culture our thinking in this new consciousness, which naturally and immediately feels, speaks, acts, and thinks in this new language of the seven synonymous terms, we get out of the old frame of reference. But of course, supplanting the old frame of reference with the new consciousness, the new frame of reference, takes dedication, total consecration. It must be as the Psalmist says: "Thou anointest my head with oil"—with consecration.

How Do We Approach This Study?

We must also be aware of how we touch the subject.

Having set the aim of attaining a new consciousness, a consciousness stamped by this grand seven-fold nature of Being, we must ask "How can I approach this revolution in consciousness so that I actually exchange the wrong for the right, and not the wrong for another wrong?"

If we don't understand that the seven synonymous terms have a very definite meaning, it is easy to exchange the wrong concept of them for a different wrong concept of them. The method of study is super-important. Without the right method we could spend our whole life and all our energy on the investigation and research, and it would lead nowhere. We must first have the right method, and then be disciplined and pure in clearly following the method. There are an average of five or six synonymous terms on each page of the textbook, and if we don't know what these terms mean, spiritually, we may be reading the textbook rightly, but reading it with a consciousness that is wrong.

How can we get hold of the right meaning of these seven synonymous terms?

First, we cannot put *our* meaning into the synonymous terms. We cannot substitute our humanistic "Christian" sense of them for the true spiritual meaning that Mrs. Eddy has given these terms.

Second, we need to use careful analysis rather than depending on intuition. Many students of Christian Sci-

ence feel they should get the meaning through inspiration, but inspiration usually turns out to be the human subconscious coming to the surface, and this isn't good enough. Inspiration is not the way to deal with a *scientific* subject. When we are dealing with a scientific subject we must use scientific criteria in order to approximate the subject itself. We should discipline ourselves into really wanting scientific criteria, and then we should try to use scientific criteria in order to analyze the meaning of those seven synonymous terms. Otherwise we are just putting our humanly subjective meaning into these divinely objective reality-*facts*. And this doesn't do the job.

We should admit that we do not know what the synonymous terms mean, and consequently we are not going to project into Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love our concept of them; instead, we are going to reason from the seven synonymous terms.

The Method

How can we reason from the seven synonymous terms when we don't know them?

The method is to first analyze the meaning of each synonymous term through all the *statements in the textbook* referring to each synonym, to get an approximate understanding of each of the seven terms.

We must ask, "What does *Mrs. Eddy* say Mind is?" not "What do I feel or think Mind is?"

This naturally means we accept that the textbook is God-inspired, that the textbook is pure revelation given to

Mrs. Eddy over a period of forty-five years, during which time she was shown the nature of the seven synonymous terms. So we start with the fact that Mrs. Eddy was transparent enough for Truth's revelation of itself to make itself plain, and she heard and wrote down the exact meaning of the seven synonymous terms. This is our axiom. Without this premise our study is merely speculation.

Naturally there are many proofs that Science and Health was dictated by God and that it was divine revelation. We will not go into these because these proofs have been covered elsewhere.

We must be objective enough in our study to let the scientific interpretation of the textbook define to us what these seven synonymous terms mean. We cannot let mystical pondering, inspiration, or meditation take the place of scientific investigation in our search for the meaning of the seven synonymous terms. We have to know what Being, itself, meant when Being translated itself to Mrs. Eddy as Mind, as Spirit, as Soul, as Principle, as Life, as Truth, and as Love. We want to know what our true Being knows about our true Mind, how our God-Being is interpreting to us what our Mind is, what the seven synonymous terms are.

A Science Must Know Its Constituents

There is no possibility for the Christian Science movement to survive without a scientific understanding of what the seven synonymous terms for God mean. A science that doesn't know its constituents cannot survive, and in

our Science the seven synonymous terms are the constituents of God and of our being, and are therefore the constituents of Christian Science.

Our Science is a science, and if it is a science it must have scientific methods to defend the science of it. We can't defend a science with mystical methods.

There is no shortcut in this study. Science cannot be taught in an easy way. It can only be taught as a science. There is only the scientific way to teach it and to learn it. Mrs. Eddy says "the platoons of Christian Science must be thoroughly drilled in the plainer manual of their spiritual armament." We had better get busy. We must drill ourselves in the plainer manual of our spiritual armament by culturing our consciousness in this new language of the seven synonymous terms so we more and more, in a natural way, begin to think, feel, act, and speak in the new system of reference.

We want to find out what God or divine revelation meant when it translated itself into the language of the textbook. This meaning must replace our meaning for those seven terms, so that we get a divinely objective sense of what these terms mean. Like an artisan, we must first have our proper tools. We must first become acquainted with our tools; after that we can begin to work with our tools, and see how they operate.

What Is Concept Building? — Tone Building?

We begin this study with "concept building" in order to get the conceptual meaning of each term. After that,

we “tonality-build,” which means we go over and over what we did in concept building until it becomes a *tone* and is independent of terms. It then becomes our consciousness, and finally our very being.

Concept building is our first step. It results in our knowing what is meant by the terms Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love when we see them in the textbook or elsewhere. As we culture ourselves in concept building, little by little the synonymous terms become *tones*—tones that are independent of terms. Next these terms *become our consciousness* and so are even further freed from the concept and the tone. Finally we see that *the seven synonyms are our being*, and we have a sense of being the nature of God—the nature of Mind, of Spirit, of Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. All this starts with building up the concept of these synonymous terms by properly analyzing what the textbook shows to be the characteristic ideas, the characteristic nature, of each of the synonymous terms.

To Build Up the Concept Mind

To build up the concept of Mind, for instance, go thru all the references to Mind. (You will find the references to Mind listed in chronological order at the end of the chapter on Mind.) We will learn how to do this as we go along through the seven synonymous terms with full faith. It is only by exercising our understanding, only by using it, applying it, that we get into the spirit of a term and so get the tonality of it.

As you go through the textbook, make a list of any references that cannot be verified by the given rules. They will turn out to be the most interesting ones, and will help greatly to culture our sense of the synonymous terms. For example, in the first chapter we referred to *power and law as intrinsically belonging to Mind* even though Mrs. Eddy frequently uses them with the other synonymous terms. To understand Mind we have to see why power is an idea of Mind even when it is used textually with the other synonymous terms. Govern and government are another example of terms Mrs. Eddy uses with all seven synonymous terms; we will take them up in more depth when we study Principle. We may know a pairing of terms is a combination, but we have to see when it is a combination, and why it is a combination. It is these combinations that will require most of our attention, and will do the most to culture our understanding of the synonyms.

Ponder the List of Ideas Associated With Each Synonym

Another point is to ponder the list of ideas associated with each synonym. (NOTE: These lists, based on the work of Doorly and Kappeler and their associates, are given at the beginning and end of the appropriate chapter.) When meditating on Mind, for instance, determine why all these ideas constitute a single tone, in this case a single tone of Mind. Why should all the ideas listed under Mind belong to one category and constitute a single tone? At first sight this may seem very difficult to see. But this is the point where *the literal*

sense of the synonym melts slowly into the spiritual sense of the synonym.

We have to see how to free ourselves from the letter, and how, rightly viewed, the letter is inadequate; therefore we must see the spiritual import of it. This point must be cultured so that we get into the rhythm of it.

For example, if we have a hundred ideas characterizing Mind we have to see why these hundred ideas belong only to Mind and not to Spirit, not to Soul. We have to see that they have a common denominator, a common tonality, so that, spiritually, we can spot at once whether they belong under Mind or under Spirit, or under any other synonym. This is what we have to culture, so that when we come to an idea that is not on our list we know which synonym it belongs to.

The Shortcut to Science

Do we have to do all this? It sounds like a lot of effort. Isn't there a shortcut? This slow process of *learning* is the shortcut to Science. Only in this way can we arrive at the point where we *spiritually* feel what belongs to Mind, what belongs to Spirit, to Soul, and so on.

As we go over and over the subject, little by little the new language of Spirit speaks. Gradually we can discern which synonym an idea belongs to, and then we have a definite order of consciousness, and no longer mix things up.

As we add new ideas to our lists we must be careful not to speculate, not to add ideas that blur the tonality.

Detecting the Tonality in the Bible

When we have a cultured sense of the ideas of Mind, Spirit, Soul, and so on—a sense that is independent of the terms, and so has become tonality—then we can detect the tonality in the Bible, as John Doorly, Max Kappeler and others learned to do. Then we will be able to translate the Bible into the terms of the textbook.

This process will also take time and effort. In the spiritual development of the idea, John Doorly first cultured his sense of the seven synonymous terms through the textbook, over years and years. Before he could open up the Bible he spent many years culturing his thought through the textbook. Only then did he have the key to the Scriptures. Only when he had a tonality sense of the seven synonyms that was entirely independent of terms, did he have the understanding of the Bible. He could never have seen the structure of a book in the Bible—none of us could—nor the layout of a book in the Bible, had he not first gained a very cultured sense of the synonymous terms from the textbook through the ideas characterizing the seven synonymous terms.

Most Christians come into Christian Science through their love of the Bible. The Bible is “our sea-beaten rock.” But how many of us truly understand it? We can only know what the prophets meant if we begin to understand their language, the language of God, which only the textbook gives us the key to. The prophets had to translate a spiritual language into the language of their time, just as Mrs. Eddy had to translate the very same language of

Spirit into the language of our time, adapted to our age. Through the seven synonymous terms we learn a Spirit language, *a tonality* language. If we know the tonality language we will hear the music everywhere, whether that tonality is spelled out in terms the textbook uses or in completely different terms. Then we too can open up the Bible and see its structure. When we learn the textbook we at the same time learn to read the Bible.

Acquire the Tonality Sense

As occasion permits we should ponder the ideas of each synonymous term so as to acquire a constantly improved sense of the tonality of each synonym. When we ask ourselves, "What is Mind?" the ideas can come in any order but always disciplined into the tonality of Mind. They don't need to be terms; they can be feelings, they can be an atmosphere, and so on,—until finally we lose the wordy sense of Mind and have just a rounded complete sense of Mind and have freed ourself of the list.

We establish a list in order to get rid of it; by establishing the absolute letter we establish the spirit. The correct letter is the spirit of it. This is revealed as we look up Mrs. Eddy's references to the letter and the spirit. There is no discrepancy between the absolute letter and the spirit.

Dear reader, as someone has wisely said, "If you're ridin' ahead of the herd take a look back every now and then to make sure its still there with you."